BLACK SUN SILVER MOON
3
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A Go! Comi manga

Published by Go! Media Entertainment, LLC

Black Sun Silver Moon Volume 3
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First published in Japan in 2004 by SHINSHOKAN Co., Ltd. Tokyo
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ISBN 978-1-933617-35-0

First printed in October 2007

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

Manufactured in the United States of America

水の色 海の青
The Color of Water, the Blue of the Sea

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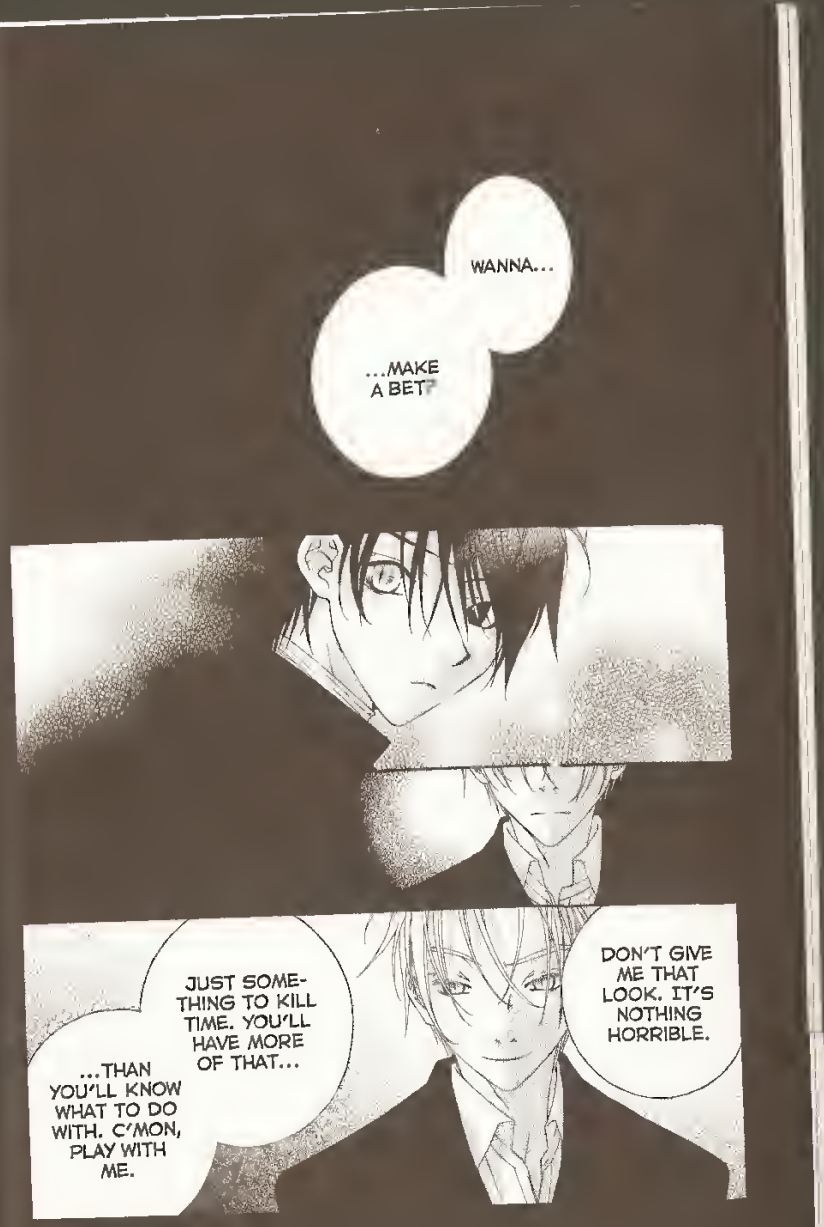
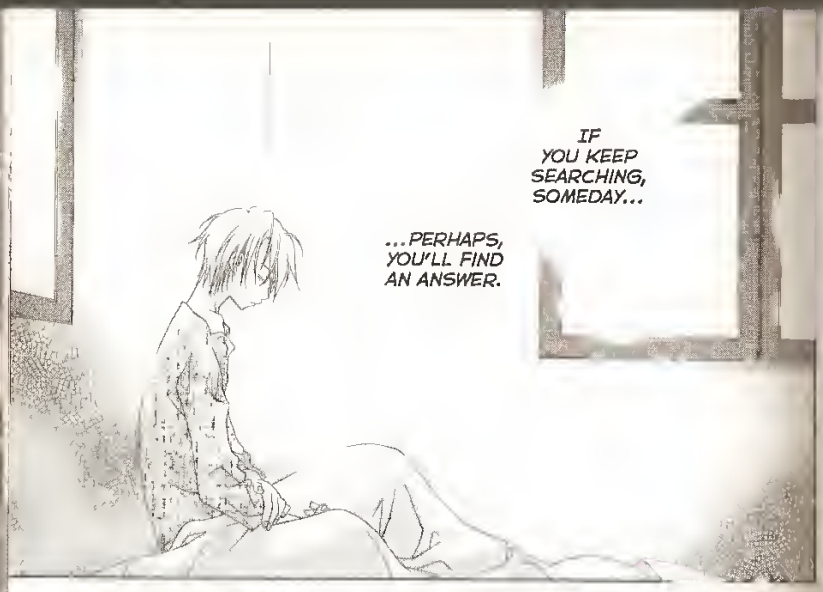
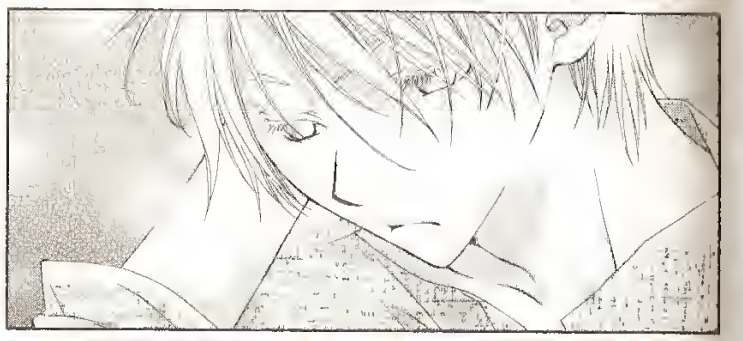
FIND A WAY TO SAVE YOURSELF.
A WAY TO REGAIN YOUR HUMANITY... A WAY TO DIE... OR ANY OTHER SALVATION YOU DESIRE.
YOU CAN USE PEOPLE, THINGS, OR EVEN THE INTANGIBLE. IT CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WISH.
IF YOU FIND A WAY, YOU WIN.
IF YOU DON'T FIND ONE, I WIN.
AND YOU'LL GIVE IN TO MY SIDE.
AND I'LL DO ANY ONE THING YOU ASK.


WANNA...
...MAKE A BET?
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK. IT'S NOTHING HORRIBLE.
JUST SOMETHING TO KILL TIME. YOU'LL HAVE MORE OF THAT...
...THAN YOU'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH. C'MON, PLAY WITH ME.



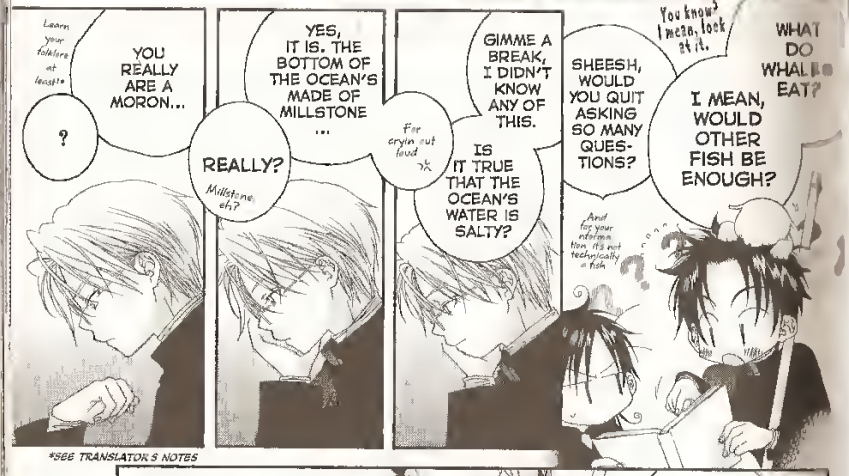


YOU'VE GOT NOTHING TO LOSE, RIGHT? EVEN IF YOU CAN'T WIN, YOU'LL STAY AS YOU ARE.
ANY-THING'S BETTER THAN JUST SITTING AROUND. IT'LL SPICE THINGS UP.
AS FOR THE TIME LIMIT...

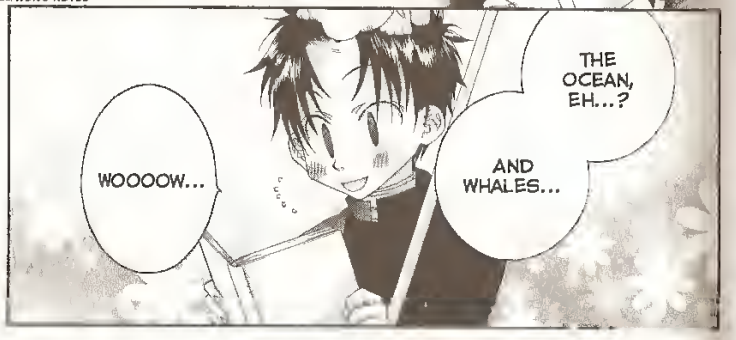
YOU CAN DECIDE HOW LONG THIS WILL GO ON.

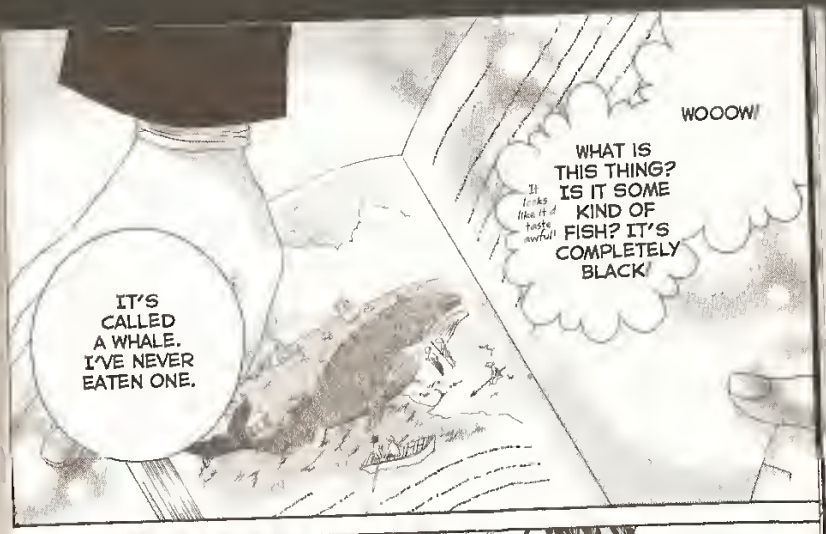
IT'S ALL UP TO YOU.

I'VE... NEVER SEEN THE OCEAN I GREW UP IN THE MOUN TAINS...
IT MUST BE REALLY HUGE IF IT HAS FISH LIKE THESE LIVING IN IT!
OH, WELL IT IS PRETTY FAR I HAVEN'T ACTUALLY SEEN IT MY SELF...
I've never had anything to do with it
And shrimp and crab
And clams and octopus and squid
Though I do love fish
Hmmm...
YEAH, I GUESS.

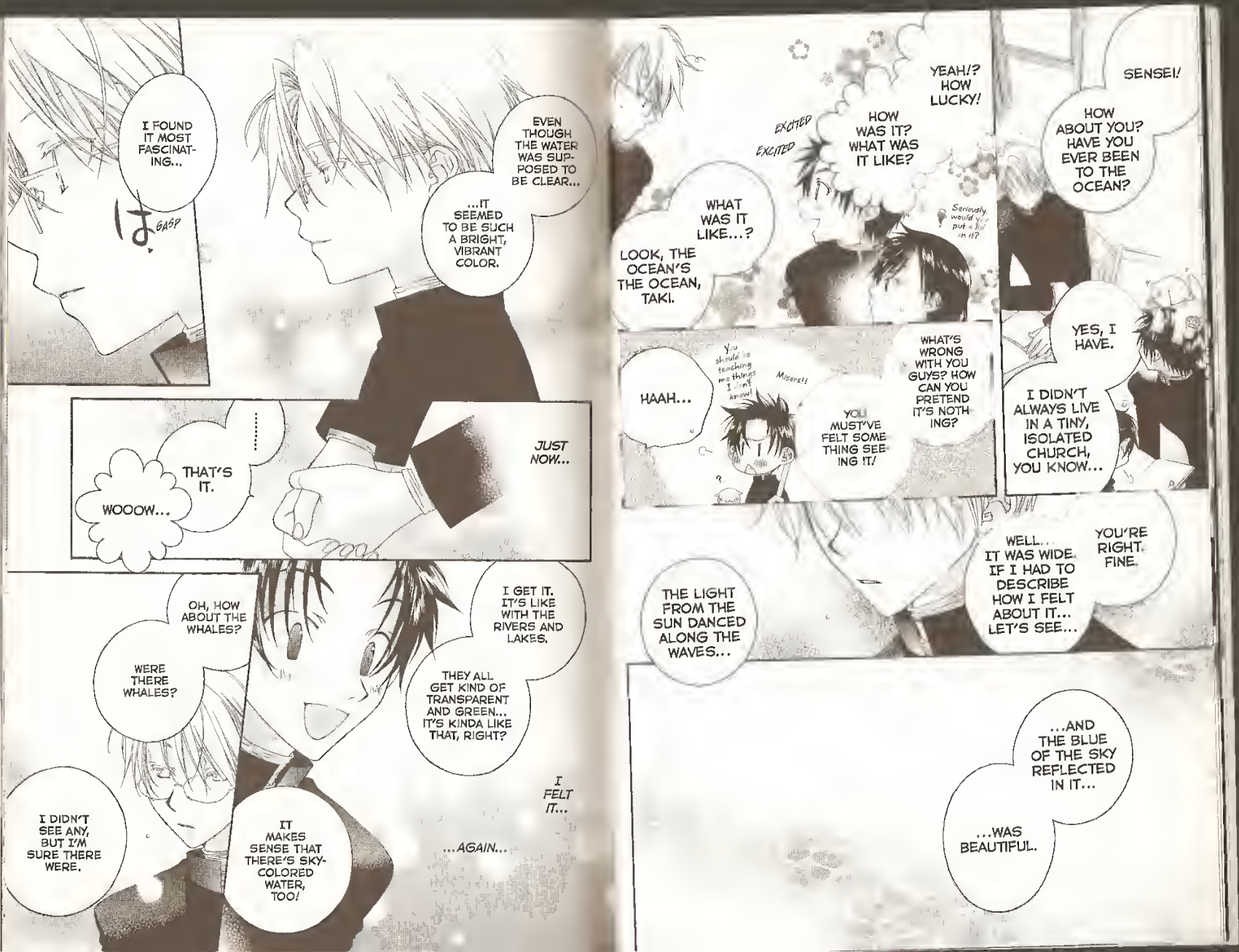

Learn your folklore at least!
YOU REALLY ARE A MORON...
?
YES, IT IS. THE BOTTOM OF THE OCEAN'S MADE OF MILLSTONE ...
REALLY?
Millstone, eh?
For crying out loud
GIMME A BREAK, I DIDN'T KNOW ANY OF THIS.
IS IT TRUE THAT THE OCEAN'S WATER IS SALTY?
SHEESH, WOULD YOU QUIT ASKING SO MANY QUES-TIONS?
You know? I mean, look at it.
I MEAN, WOULD OTHER FISH BE ENOUGH?
WHAT DO WHALES EAT?
And for your information, it's not technically a fish

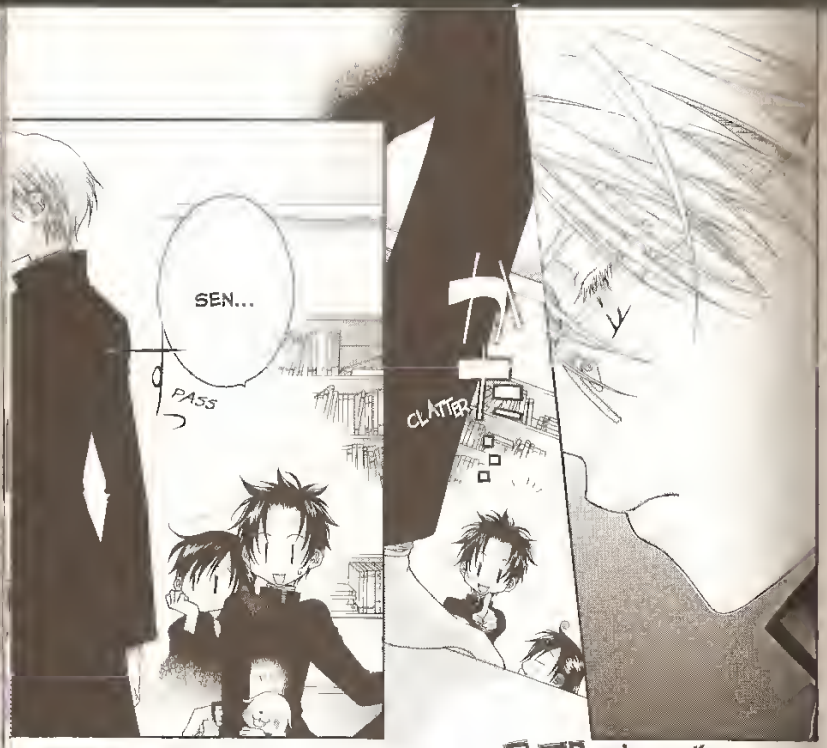
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES

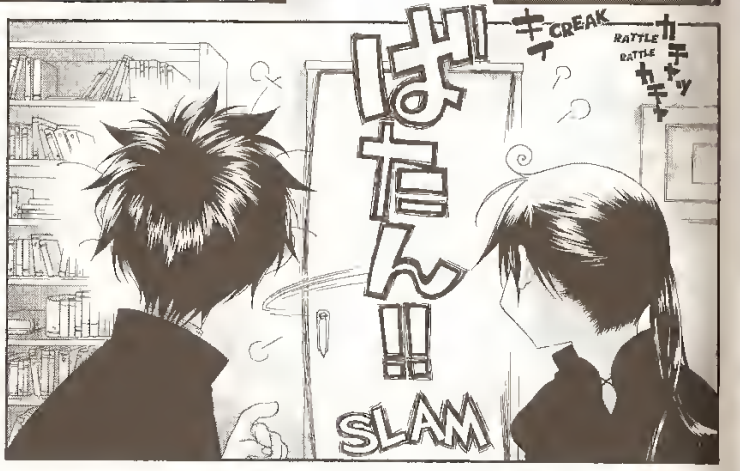



IT'S CALLED A WHALE. I'VE NEVER EATEN ONE.
WOOOW!
WHAT IS THIS THING? IS IT SOME KIND OF FISH? IT'S COMPLETELY BLACK!
It looks like it'd taste awful!

WHOOOOA. DAAAANG. AND HOW ABOUT THESE LITTLE GUYS HERE? THEY DWARVES OR SOMETHING?
They edible?
YOU IDIOT, THOSE ARE PEOPLE! WHALES ARE HUGE, DON'T YOU KNOW ANYTHING?
WHAAA?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE JOKING. WHERE DO THESE THINGS LIVE?
I'M NOT JOKING. THEY'RE WAY OUT IN THE OCEAN.
THE OCEAN!?


I FOUND IT MOST FASCINATING...
GASP
EVEN THOUGH THE WATER WAS SUPPOSED TO BE CLEAR...
...IT SEEMED TO BE SUCH A BRIGHT, VIBRANT COLOR.
JUST NOW...
THAT'S IT.
WOOOW...
I DIDN'T SEE ANY, BUT I'M SURE THERE WERE.
WERE THERE WHALES?
OH, HOW ABOUT THE WHALES?
IT MAKES SENSE THAT THERE'S SKY-COLORED WATER, TOO!
I GET IT. IT'S LIKE WITH THE RIVERS AND LAKES.
THEY ALL GET KIND OF TRANSPARENT AND GREEN... IT'S KINDA LIKE THAT, RIGHT?
I FELT IT...
...AGAIN...
YEAH!? HOW LUCKY!
EXCITED
EXCITED
HOW WAS IT? WHAT WAS IT LIKE?
Seriously, would you put a lid on it?
WHAT WAS IT LIKE...?
LOOK, THE OCEAN'S THE OCEAN, TAKI.
SENSEI!
HOW ABOUT YOU? HAVE YOU EVER BEEN TO THE OCEAN?
YES, I HAVE.
I DIDN'T ALWAYS LIVE IN A TINY, ISOLATED CHURCH, YOU KNOW...
HAAH...
You should be teaching me things I don't know!
Misers!!
YOU MUST'VE FELT SOMETHING SEEING IT!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU GUYS? HOW CAN YOU PRETEND IT'S NOTHING?
YOU'RE RIGHT. FINE.
WELL... IT WAS WIDE. IF I HAD TO DESCRIBE HOW I FELT ABOUT IT... LET'S SEE...
THE LIGHT FROM THE SUN DANCED ALONG THE WAVES...
...AND THE BLUE OF THE SKY REFLECTED IN IT...
...WAS BEAUTIFUL.


SEN...
PASS
CLATTER


キィ CREAK
RATTLE RATTLE カチャッ カチャ
ばたん!!
SLAM

ぱ GLOW
What is he a kid?
LET'S GO SOMETIME!
I WANT TO SEE THE OCEAN AND WHALES!

Well, if Shiki-mi goes I'm going too

SO...
THAT WAS WEIRD...
.....
カチャ
KLATCH
ばん
SLAM
TMP
TMP
TMP
ピピピピピピ
PHEEEW
.....
FLOP
CLATTER
ガタン

...I TOLD YOU, IT COMES IN WAVES.
YOU MUST HAVE FORGOTTEN BECAUSE IT WAS DORMANT, BUT...
I KNEW IT'D COME EVENTUALLY. YOUR APPETITE, I MEAN.
THE REASON YOU...
THAT'S WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T EAT.
IT CLAWS AT YOU. IT HURTS YOU... RIGHT?
.....
WELL, WELL... I HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, HUH?
AREN'T THEY JUST GETTING IN YOUR WAY?
OUR BET HAS NO END...BUT *YOUR* TIME IS RUNNING OUT.
YOU GET IT NOW. THEY AREN'T ENOUGH.
...CAN'T BE RESOLUTE IS BECAUSE OF THOSE KIDS, ISN'T IT?

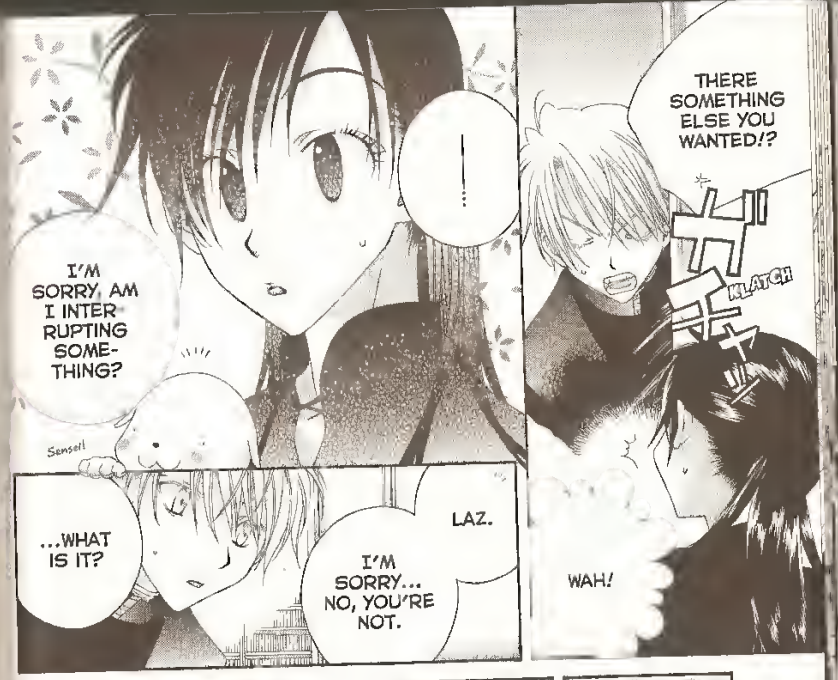
WHY BOTHER COMPLAINING ABOUT IT NOW?
You hardly ever sleep anyway
YOU DON'T FEEL AT ALL STRANGE HANGING OUT IN SOMEONE ELSE'S ROOM, DO YOU?
GLANCE
And on someone's bed, no less!
I'M DOWNRIGHT JEALOUS.
IMPUDENT AND INSENSITIVE AS EVER...
YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
YOU ANGRY AT YOURSELF FOR LOSING YOUR TEMPER?
You don't usually do that
WHAT'S THE MATTER? IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO GET YOUR FEATHERS RUFFLED SO EASILY.
.....
I'M NOT PRAISING YOU.
YEAH? I'M HONORED.

...ACCEPT IT?
LOOKS LIKE I HAVE TO WAIT LONGER
BUT I DON'T MIND. I HAVE TIME.
WORRY AND FRET ALL YOU WANT. EVENTUALLY, YOU WILL ACCEPT IT.
SHUT
I CAN'T...
...ACCEPT IT.
I...
I...
KNOCK KNOCK KNOCK
SQUEEZE
.....

IF THAT'S THE CASE, I COULD TAKE CARE OF THEM FOR Y–
GREY!!
.....
JUST KIDDING.
THEY HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS...!
REALLY? I DON'T THINK SO.
THEY'RE ALREADY IN THIS DEEP. IT'S TOO LATE.
I COULD CARE LESS EITHER WAY.
I'M NOT AFTER THEM.

I WAS WORRIED.
I THOUGHT MAYBE SOMETHING WAS WRONG.
AND YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING PALE FOR A WHILE...
But I also just wanted an excuse to touch you...
I can't reach...
...HUH?
Hey, stop moving.
WELL, YOU WERE ACTING STRANGE EARLIER.

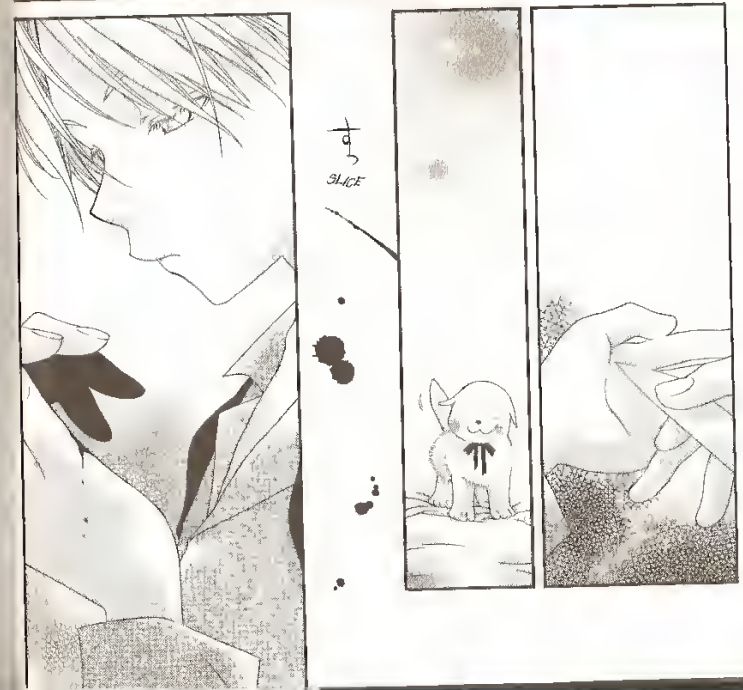
That's because you have such short limbs.
THAT IDIOT TAKI IS TELLING ME I SHOULD LEAVE YOU ALONE, BUT I KNOW HE'S WORRIED, TOO.
Don't call me an idiot!
LET ME KNOW IF YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
YOU'VE BEEN LOSING WEIGHT, TOO. ARE YOU EATING ENOUGH?
LAZ.
You have a pretty low body temperature.
...HM.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO HAVE A FEVER.
There there.


I'M SORRY, AM I INTERRUPTING SOMETHING?
Sensei!
...WHAT IS IT?
LAZ.
I'M SORRY... NO, YOU'RE NOT.
THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANTED!?
KLATCH
WAH!

I JUST WANTED TO SEE IF YOU WERE OKAY.
TOUCH
YES...?
Mmm
...NOTHING.
STARE

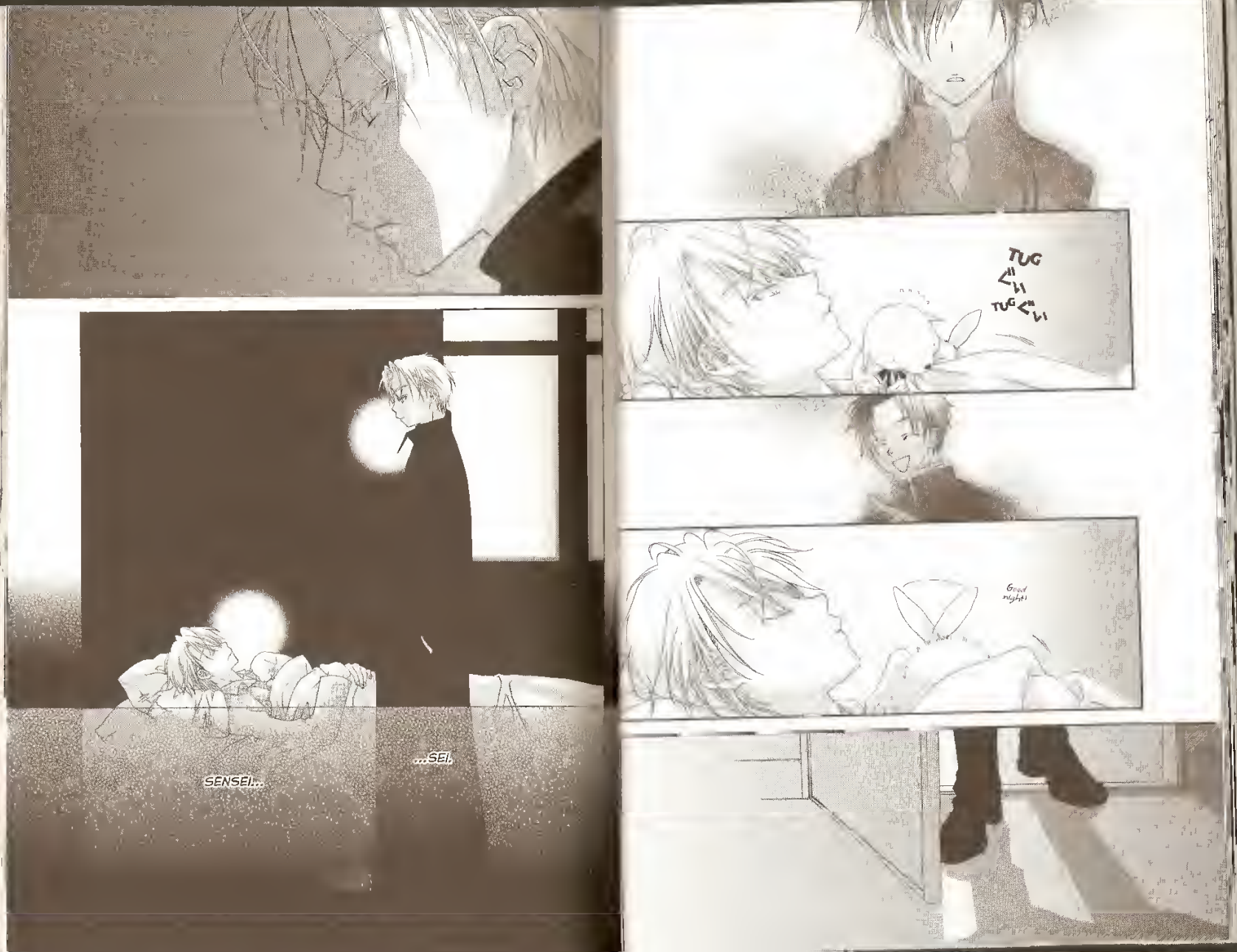
HM?
YOU'VE HEARD, HAVEN'T YOU? WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT ME...
WHAT I AM...
They say some pretty harsh things
UH-HUH.
THEN WHY ARE YOU OKAY BEING SO CLOSE TO ME?
DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE BEING CARELESS? AREN'T YOU AFRAID?
WHY WOULD I BE?
RUMORS ARE JUST RUMORS. AND ON TOP OF THAT, I LOVE YOU.
This is so awkward!
I'M NOT AFRAID OF ANYTHING.
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, SHIKIMI?
STOP TALKING DOWN TO ME.
...WHAT IF...THEY WEREN'T JUST RUMORS?
WHAT IF ALL THE RUMORS WERE TRUE?
WOULD YOU STILL BE ABLE TO SAY YOU LOVE ME?
FALLING FOR SOMEONE ISN'T DETERMINED BY WHAT KIND OF PERSON THEY ARE.
LOVE IS DANGEROUS. SOMETIMES IT CAN'T BE HELPED, NO MATTER WHO IT IS.
DO YOU THINK I'M REALLY THAT FICKLE?

MY FEELINGS FOR YOU ARE TRUE.
EVEN IF THOSE RUMORS ARE, TOO.
AND...

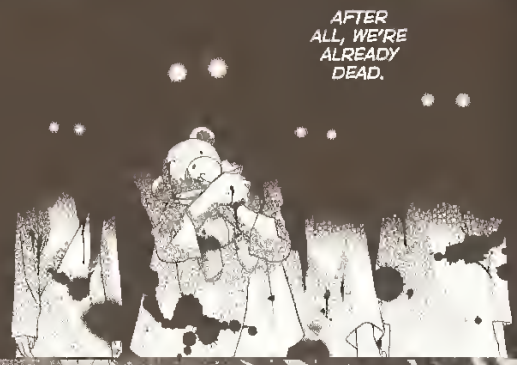

SLICE

LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
LICK
BURP!

FLOP
Nap time?
.....


TUG
TUG
Good night!
...SEI.
SENSEI...

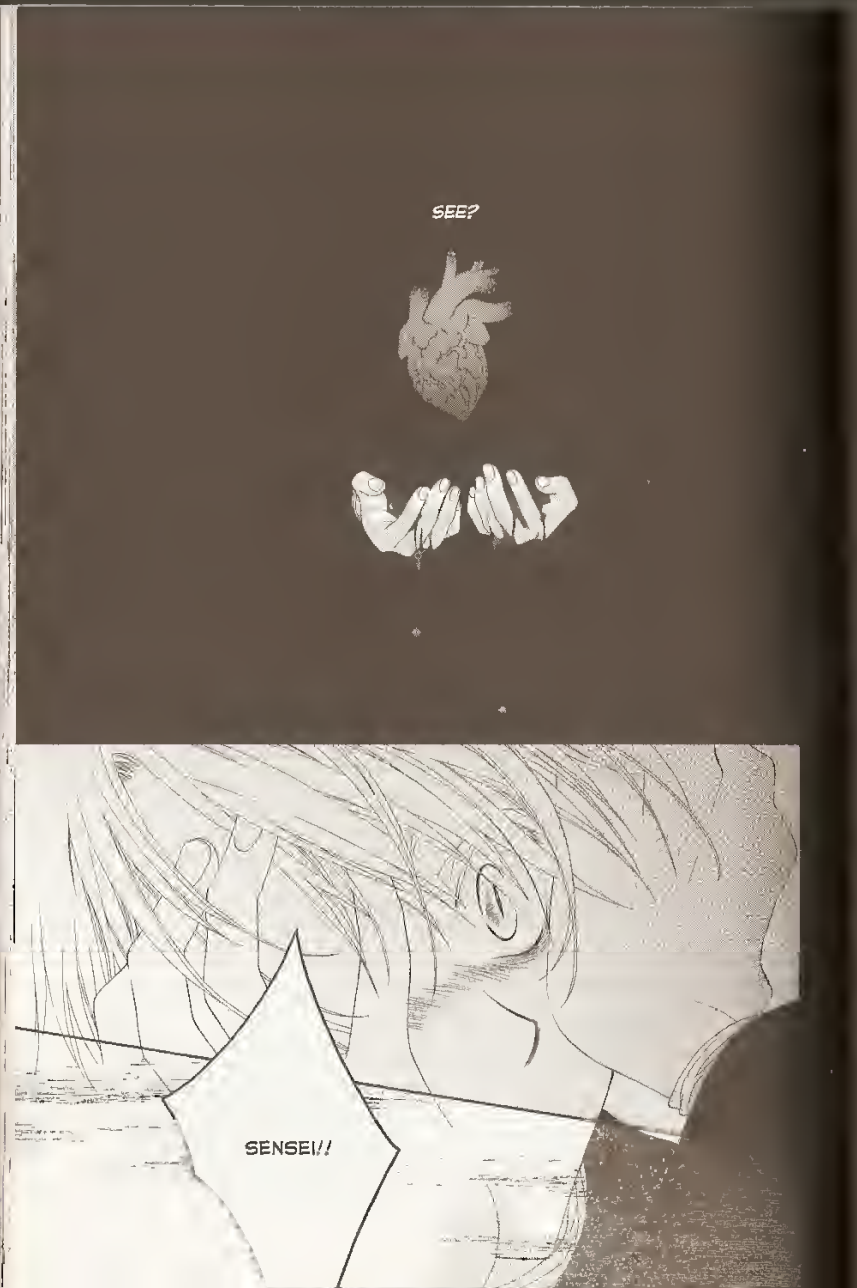
YOU CAN EAT, IT'S OKAY.
YOU REALLY ARE HUNGRY, AREN'T YOU?
C'MON, GUYS. I'M NOT THAT MUCH OF A GLUTTON.
I CAN'T EAT THAT MUCH, HONEST.
...WE WANT YOU TO.


AFTER ALL, WE'RE ALREADY DEAD.

ARE YOU HUNGRY?
SENSEI.

WHAT ARE YOU ALL DOING HERE?
...NOT REALLY, WHY?
I JUST HAD DINNER.
...YOU'RE HUNGRY.
WE HEARD...
BUT, SENSEI, YOU ARE HUNGRY. AREN'T YOU?

...TAKI.
IT'S ALRIGHT...
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU...
I...
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I UNDER-STAND.
SENSEI.
NO.
I DON'T WANT THAT!
IT'S OKAY, SENSEI.
SENSEI...
STOP IT...!!
IT'S OKAY TO EAT.
SENSEI.
EAT.
...EAT.
EAT.
YOU WANT TO, DON'T YOU?
SENSEI.
NO!

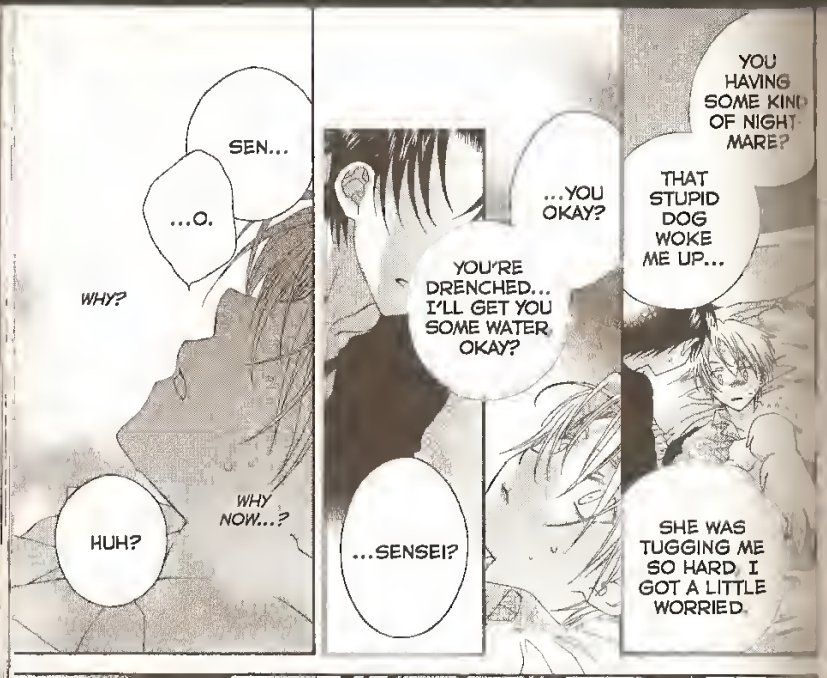

SEE?
SENSEI!!

I'LL SAVE YOU.
DON'T WORRY.
IT'S OKAY.
IT'LL SAVE YOU, SENSEI.
I ONLY HAVE ONE...
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, ISN'T IT?
LOOK...

!!!

ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU WERE THRASHING AROUND.



YOU HAVING SOME KIND OF NIGHT-MARE?

THAT STUPID DOG WOKE ME UP...

SHE WAS TUGGING ME SO HARD, I GOT A LITTLE WORRIED.

...YOU OKAY?

YOU'RE DRENCHED... I'LL GET YOU SOME WATER, OKAY?

...SENSEI?

SEN...

...O.

WHY?

WHY NOW...?

HUH?

GO.

TAKI.

?

WHAT...

...HURRY!

RUN.

WHA ...!?
SE...N...
...SE...?
GH...!

RUN...!!
SENSEI...?

SENSEI...!!
LET G...
RAISE
SEN...

THIS ISN'T GOOD.
COUGH
SEN...!
...I'M FINE.
IT'LL... HEAL SOON.
ズブ
SPLAT
I'M SO THIRSTY...
OR...DID I HAVE THAT DREAM BE-CAUSE...
IS IT BECAUSE OF THAT DREAM I HAD?
DON'T COME...
DON'T COME...!

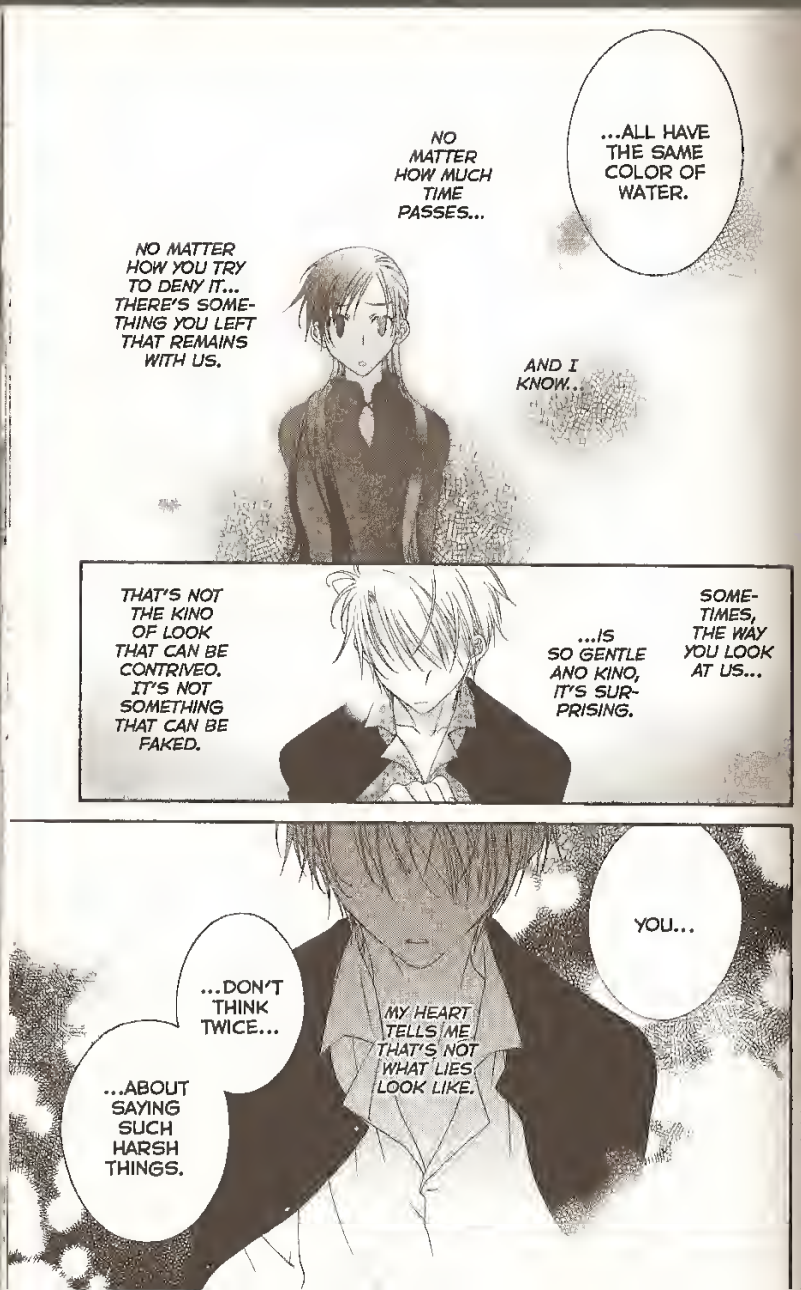
SEN... SE-
COUGH HACK
デボデボ
WHAT'RE Y...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING ...!?
TWIST

AH, I'LL GO GET SOMETHING TO CLEAN IT OFF.
If you let blood sit too long it sets in
LIKE A TOWEL.
I'LL BE BACK, JUST STAY RIGHT TH-
SENSEI?
...AREN'T YOU... AFRAID...?
LET ME SEE IT...
I'M FINE. I WON'T EVEN SCAR. YOU KNOW THAT.
You'll get fat if you eat at bedtime. Argh.
Stop that, you.
IS IT... HEALED?
...YES.
LICK
LICK
HE'S...
I'M GLAD.
I KNOW, BUT...
WELL... OKAY THEN...
Get fat?
SHOCK
I SHOULD WASH THE BLOOD OFF YOUR SHEETS AND CLOTHING...
WHY'S HE HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS...
...NOW OF ALL TIMES?
...AN IDIOT.
WELL, YOU SEEM OKAY, BUT...
THE BLOOD...

THE NEXT TIME MIGHT NOT...
...TURN OUT OKAY.
HOW CAN YOU NOT BE AFRAID AFTER YOU WERE ALMOST KILLED!? YOU HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH OPPORTUNITIES FOR IT!
WHA ...!?
ARE YOU STILL DOUBT-ING ME, YOU JERK!?
And you've got some blood on your cheek.
PAW
PAW
I... I MEAN, IT ALWAYS TURNS OUT OKAY IN THE END...
NEXT TIME...
WIPE
...THAT'S.. WELL...
Thanks.
GULP
!
I'M...
...AFRAID.
SLAP
YOU DUMMY.
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT? JEEZ, YOU'RE DENSE!
!
...LIAR.
...YOU STOPPED YOURSELF FOR ME.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO BE AFRAID OF!
I KNOW HOW YOU ARE. AND JUST NOW...

I'M AFRAID OF MYSELF...
...BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT I MIGHT DO.
I'M AFRAID BECAUSE I CANNOT TRUST MYSELF...
BUT EVEN THROUGH THAT FEAR, THERE'S A PART OF ME THAT CONTINUES TO SMILE.
AND EVERY TIME HE DOES, I FEEL AS THOUGH MY GUILT WILL DRAG ME DOWN.

I HAVE CHANGED, BUT...
...ONLY IN THAT I NO LONGER FEAR THIS SMILE.
RATHER, I FIND IT DOWNRIGHT LAUGHABLE... HOW SILLY OF ME TO CONTINUE THIS FARCE...
IS THAT SMILE...
!
...SUCH A BAD THING?


...ALL HAVE THE SAME COLOR OF WATER.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES...
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO DENY IT... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU LEFT THAT REMAINS WITH US.
AND I KNOW..
THAT'S NOT THE KINO OF LOOK THAT CAN BE CONTRIVED. IT'S NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE FAKED.
...IS SO GENTLE AND KINO, IT'S SURPRISING.
SOMETIMES, THE WAY YOU LOOK AT US...
YOU...
...DON'T THINK TWICE...
...ABOUT SAYING SUCH HARSH THINGS.
MY HEART TELLS ME THAT'S NOT WHAT LIES LOOK LIKE.

YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU HAVE CHANGED.
YOU DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO SMILE.
YOU GET ANGRY, NOW... AND YOU CAN CRY. BUT...
WHY CONTINUE LIVING, IF NOT TO BE HAPPY?
EVERYONE, NO MATTER WHO THEY ARE...
...IS GOING TO DESIRE THAT IN THE END, RIGHT?
EVEN IF THEY LOOK DIFFERENT IN THE LIGHT...
...THE OCEAN, AND THE RIVERS, AND THE LAKES...
AND...
RATHER THAN SAYING THAT YOU'VE "CHANGED"... DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE JUST MORE LIKE YOU WERE BEFORE?

...ALL HAVE THE SAME COLOR OF WATER.
NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME PASSES...
NO MATTER HOW YOU TRY TO OENY IT... THERE'S SOMETHING YOU LEFT THAT REMAINS WITH US.
ANO I KNOW...
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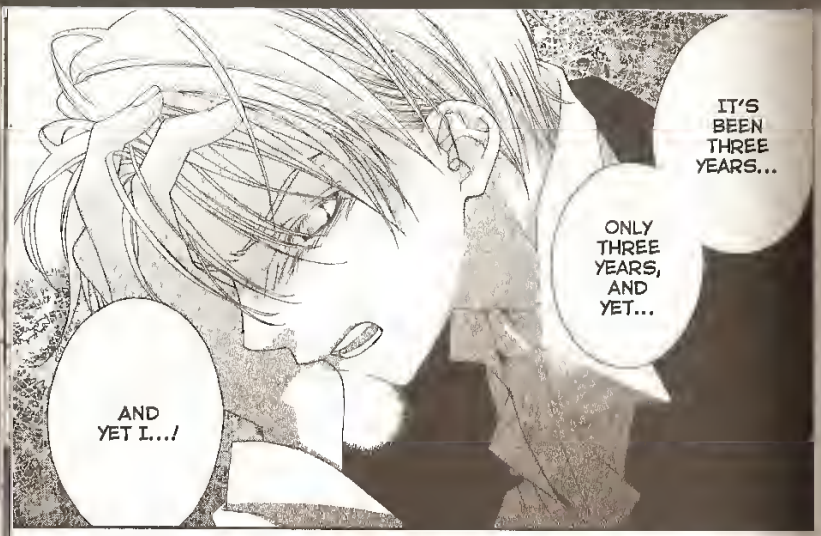
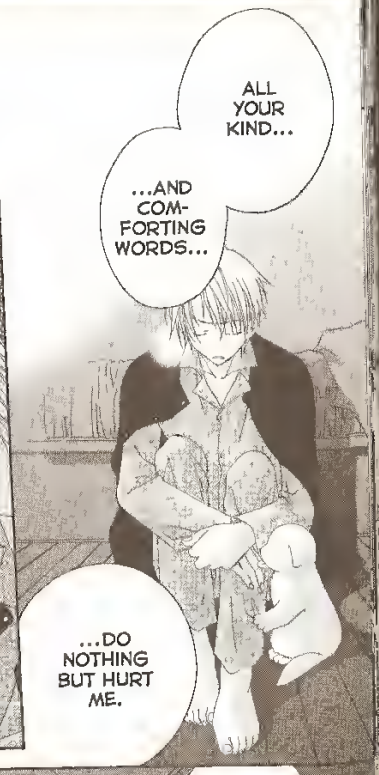

IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS...
ONLY THREE YEARS, AND YET...
AND YET I.../

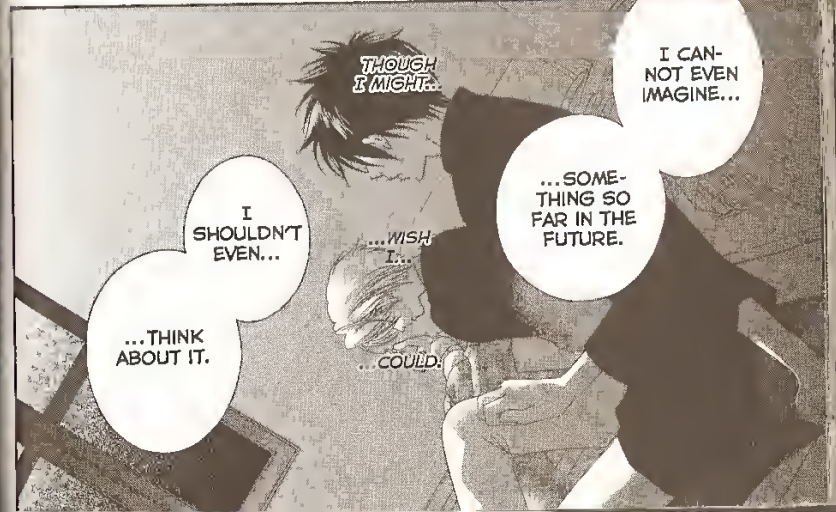
SMILES...
...AND LAUGHTER...
...ARE THINGS I SHOULD NOT HAVE.
AND YET I DO.

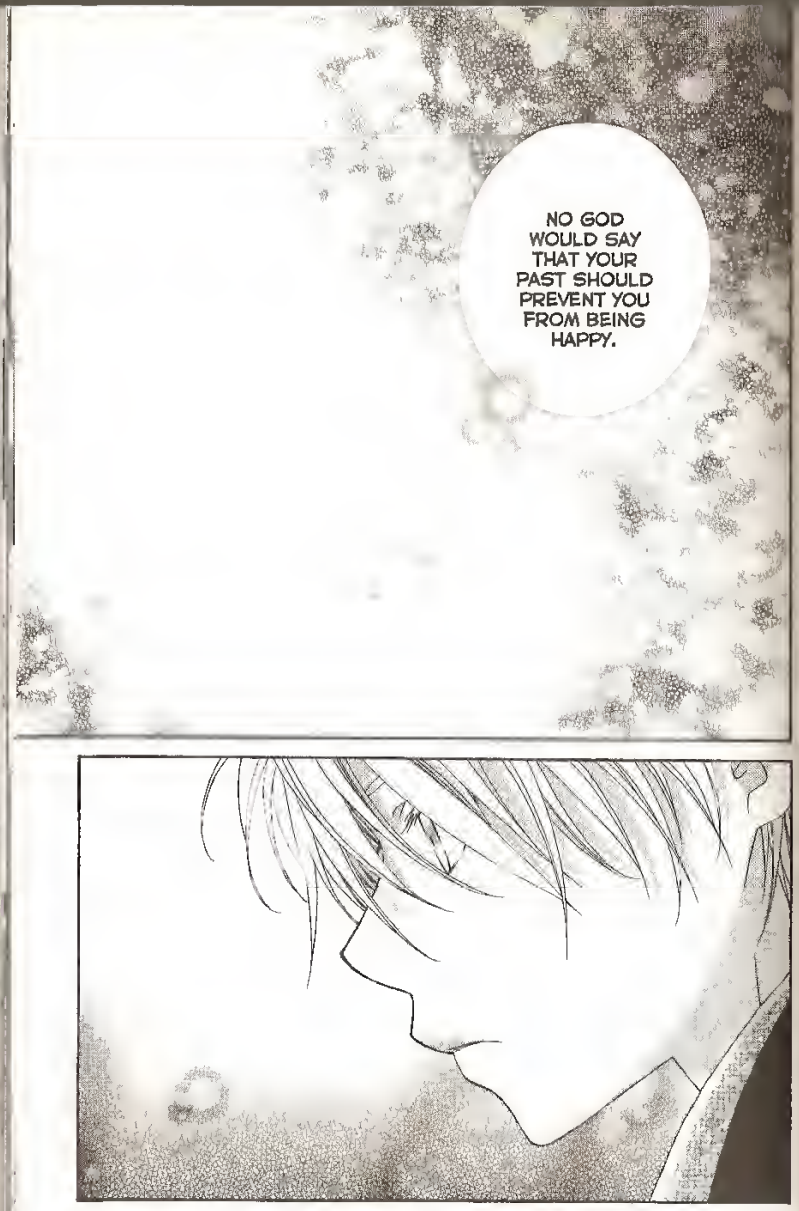
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS ALL MY FAULT...

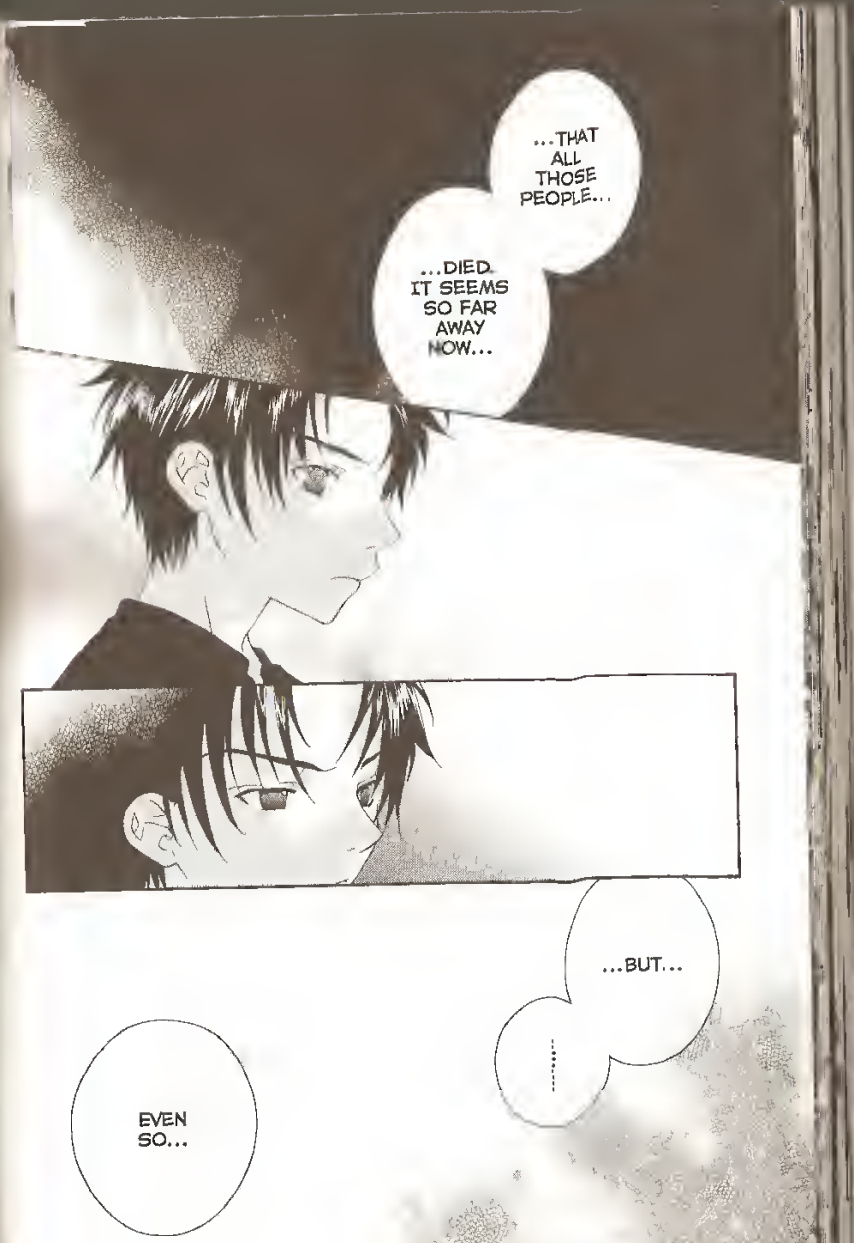
HOW MANY MORE DAYS? OR MONTHS? OR YEARS?

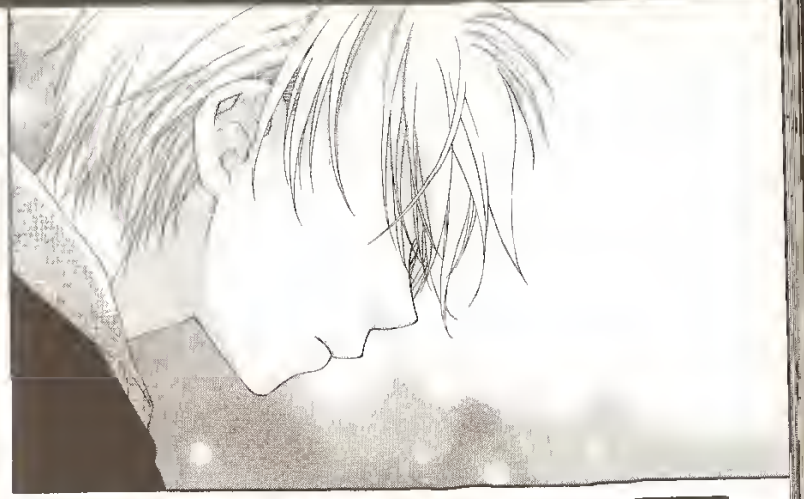
SEN...
WHEN IS "SOMEDAY," TAKI?

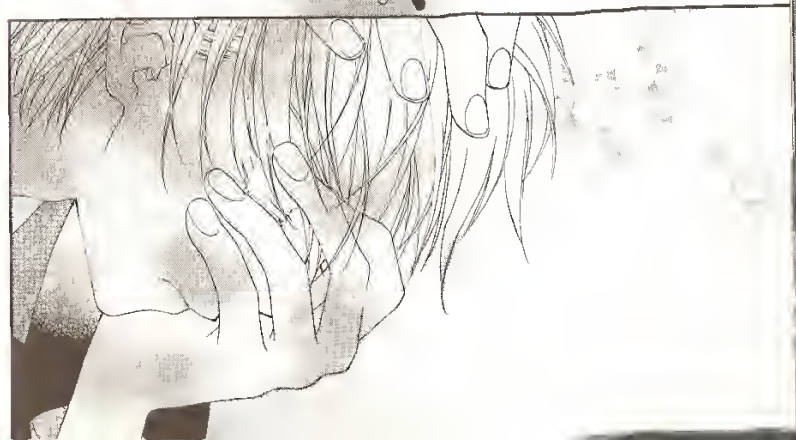

ALL YOUR KIND...
...AND COM-FORTING WORDS...
...DO NOTHING BUT HURT ME.


I CAN-NOT EVEN IMAGINE...
...SOME-THING SO FAR IN THE FUTURE.
THOUGH I MIGHT...
...WISH I...
...COULD.
I SHOULDN'T EVEN...
...THINK ABOUT IT.


NO GOD WOULD SAY THAT YOUR PAST SHOULD PREVENT YOU FROM BEING HAPPY.


...THAT ALL THOSE PEOPLE...
...DIED. IT SEEMS SO FAR AWAY NOW...
...BUT...
EVEN SO...





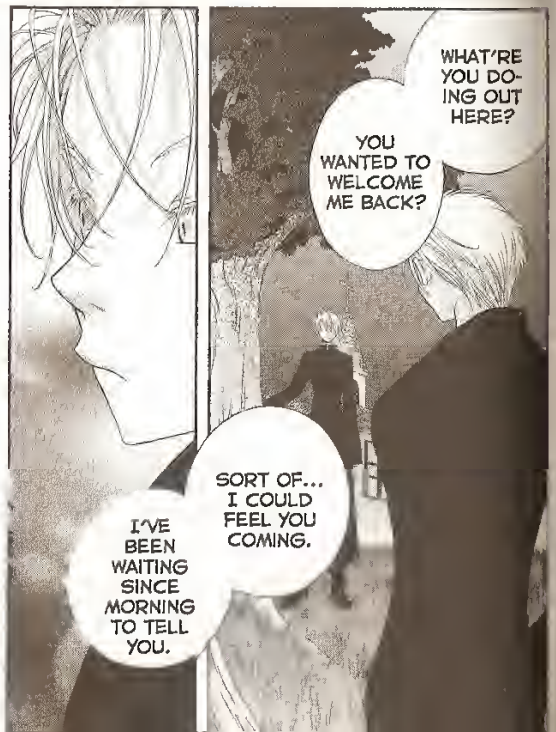
WHEN MY FATE HAS PASSEO...

...LIKE THE TURN OF THE TIOE...

...THEN “SOMEOAY”...

SHIKIMI?

I'VE COME TO SETTLE OUR BET.


WHAT'RE YOU DOING OUT HERE?
YOU WANTED TO WELCOME ME BACK?
SORT OF... I COULD FEEL YOU COMING.
I'VE BEEN WAITING SINCE MORNING TO TELL YOU.

...LET'S GO...
...TO THE OCEAN.
...HM?

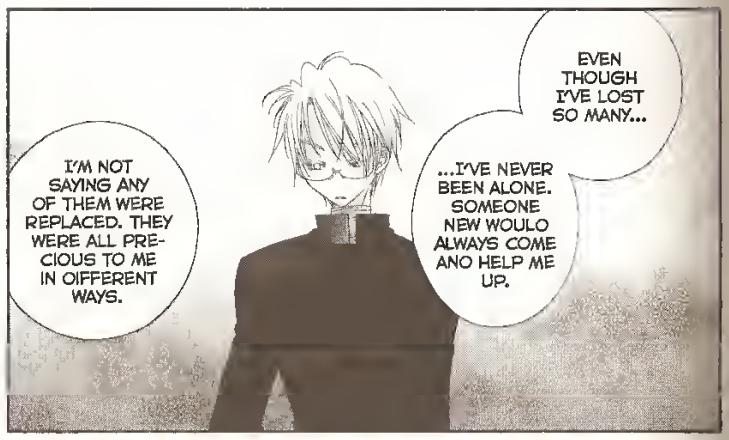
IF YOU JUST WANNA GIVE UP, I'D SAY YOU'RE SPEAKING TOO SOON...
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO? I'VE GOT-
GREY.
I...

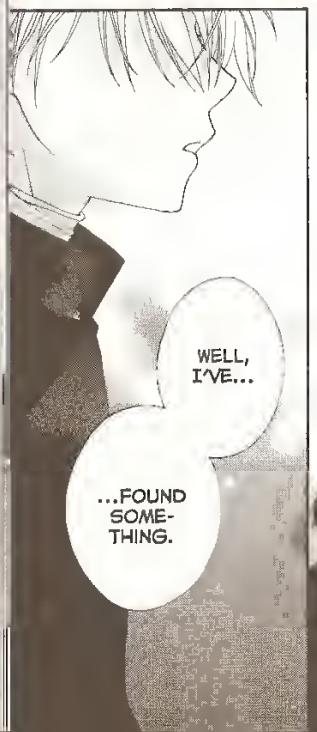
...CAN'T.

I CAN'T...
...GO.
I KNOW NOW.

IT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD TO PUT ALL YOUR HOPES ON THOSE KIDS.
EVEN THE TWO OF THEM TOGETHER CAN'T DO IT.
SO YOU'VE FOUND A WAY TO BECOME HUMAN?
NO.
I KNOW.

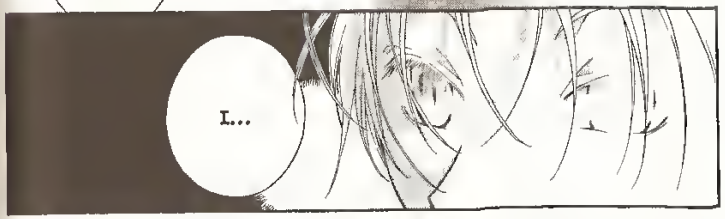
THEN WHAT GIVES?
YOU SAID THE GAME WAS OVER, SO I FIGURED YOU MUST HAVE SOMETHING ...

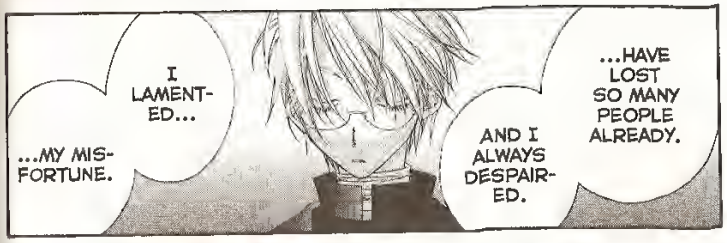

I'M NOT SAYING ANY OF THEM WERE REPLACED. THEY WERE ALL PRE-CIOUS TO ME IN OIFFERENT WAYS.
...I'VE NEVER BEEN ALONE. SOMEONE NEW WOULO ALWAYS COME ANO HELP ME UP.
EVEN THOUGH I'VE LOST SO MANY...


WELL, I'VE...
...FOUND SOME-THING.

...AS LONG AS IT SAVES ME.
...THAT ANYTHING IS FINE...
...WHEN WE MAOE OUR BET...
...YOU TOLD ME...
BACK THEN...

...OUR BET.
I WIN...
GREY.
I KNOW.

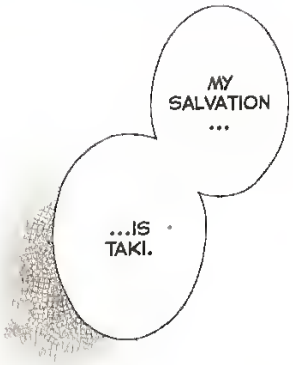

I...


...MY MIS-FORTUNE.
I LAMENT-ED...
AND I ALWAYS DESPAIR-ED.
...HAVE LOST SO MANY PEOPLE ALREADY.

...VERY BLESSED.
I'M REALLY...
IT WAS A MISTAKE.
BUT THAT WAS WRONG.

IF I DO END UP KILLING HIM...
...HE WILL ALWAYS BELIEVE IN ME.
AND AS LONG AS I AM MYSELF, I WON'T HURT HIM.

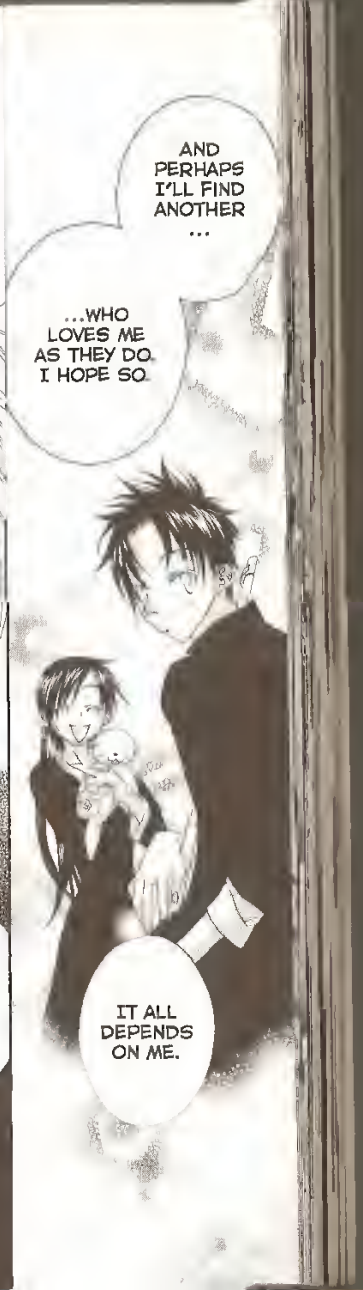
I CAN BELIEVE IN THAT.
I CAN BELIEVE IN THAT WITHOUT HESITATION.
HE IS MY...
...SOUL'S SALVATION.


MY SALVATION ...
...IS TAKI.

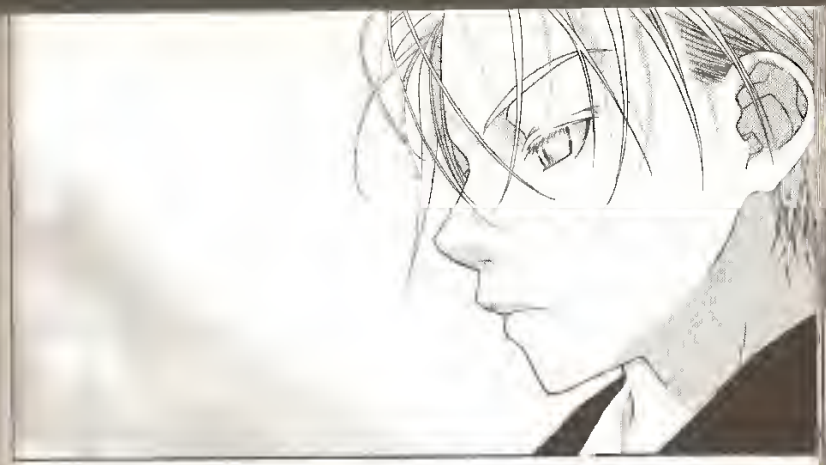
...IF I DO SOMETHING THAT COULD HURT HIM...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FUTURE...
.....
EVEN IF I...

...I BELIEVE I WILL KEEP CHANGING
AND THIS IS WHAT WILL REVIVE MY SOUL.

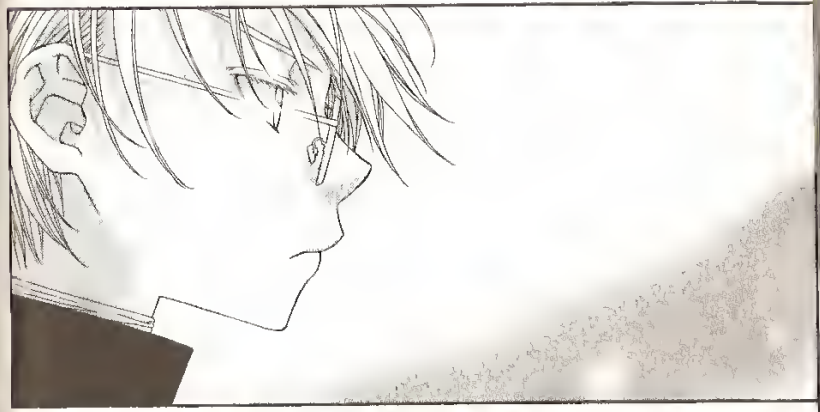
I CAN-NOT BE EXACTLY THE SAME, BUT...
I'VE CHANGED.
...I BELIEVE EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT. IT'S HUMAN NATURE TO CHANGE.
THEY MAY SAY OTHER-WISE, BUT I HAVE.
BE IT SO FAST THAT IT'S FRIGHTEN-ING, OR SLOW ENOUGH THAT YOU ALMOST DON'T REAL-IZE...
WHENEVER I'M MET WITH SAD-NESS...
...WITHOUT EVEN THINK-ING ABOUT IT, I CRY. THIS IS ME NOW.


AND PERHAPS I'LL FIND ANOTHER ...
...WHO LOVES ME AS THEY DO. I HOPE SO.
IT ALL DEPENDS ON ME.

YOUR MIND MAY BELIEVE IT, BUT YOU CAN'T LIE TO YOUR HEART. LIKE A VIVID NIGHTMARE.. YOU WILL NEVER FORGET IT.
YOU'RE PLAGUED BY GUILT AT THE THOUGHT OF REGAINING YOUR HUMANITY.
THE HEART IS NOT SUCH A SIMPLE THING.



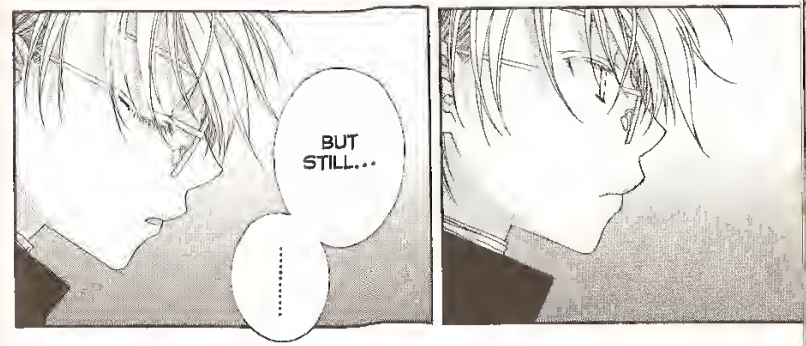
I STILL...
...HAVE MY DESIRES.
...YES, EVEN THEN.
EVEN WHEN YOU KNOW IT'S TOO LATE?
THAT'S TRUE.
BUT AT THE SAME TIME...
...I CANNOT LIE TO MY HEART WHEN IT DESIRES TO CHANGE.



DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...
...HOW DIFFICULT THAT IS?

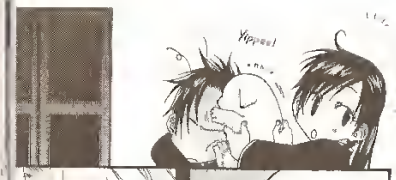
THANK YOU.

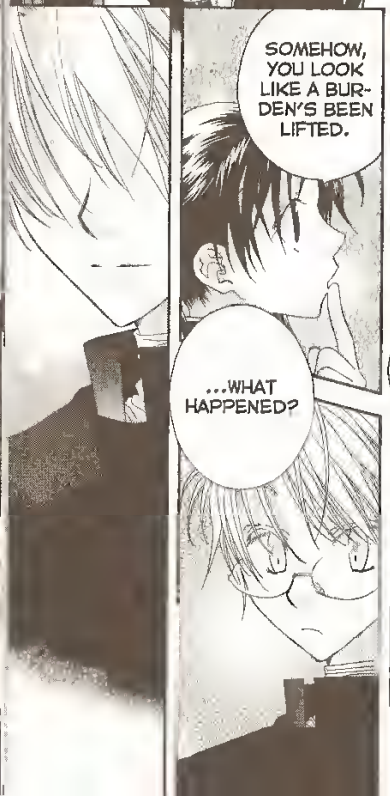
SO I WIN...
...THE BET.


BUT STILL...
.....

OH... SHIKIMI?

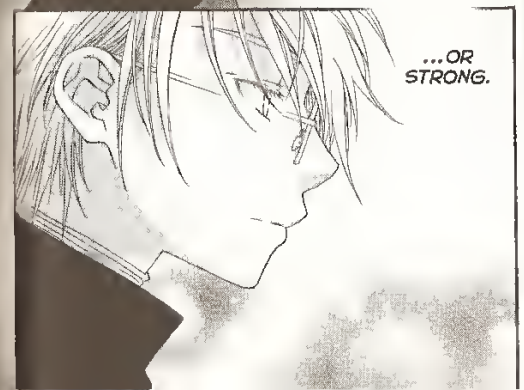
WHERE WERE YOU?





EITHER WAY, IT MIGHT JUST MAKE THINGS EASIER FOR ME.

WEAK...



The Forest at Night is Beautiful

"THE RESURRECTED."

THOSE RETURNED FROM THE DEAD...THE REVIVED CORPSES.

IN THIS WORLD, THAT'S WHAT THE SILVER-EYED DEAD ARE CALLED.

I'M SURE HE KNOWS...

...JUST HOW LITTLE TIME HE HAS LEFT.

LISTEN, YOU TWO.

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO TELL YOU.

IT'S A LONG STORY...

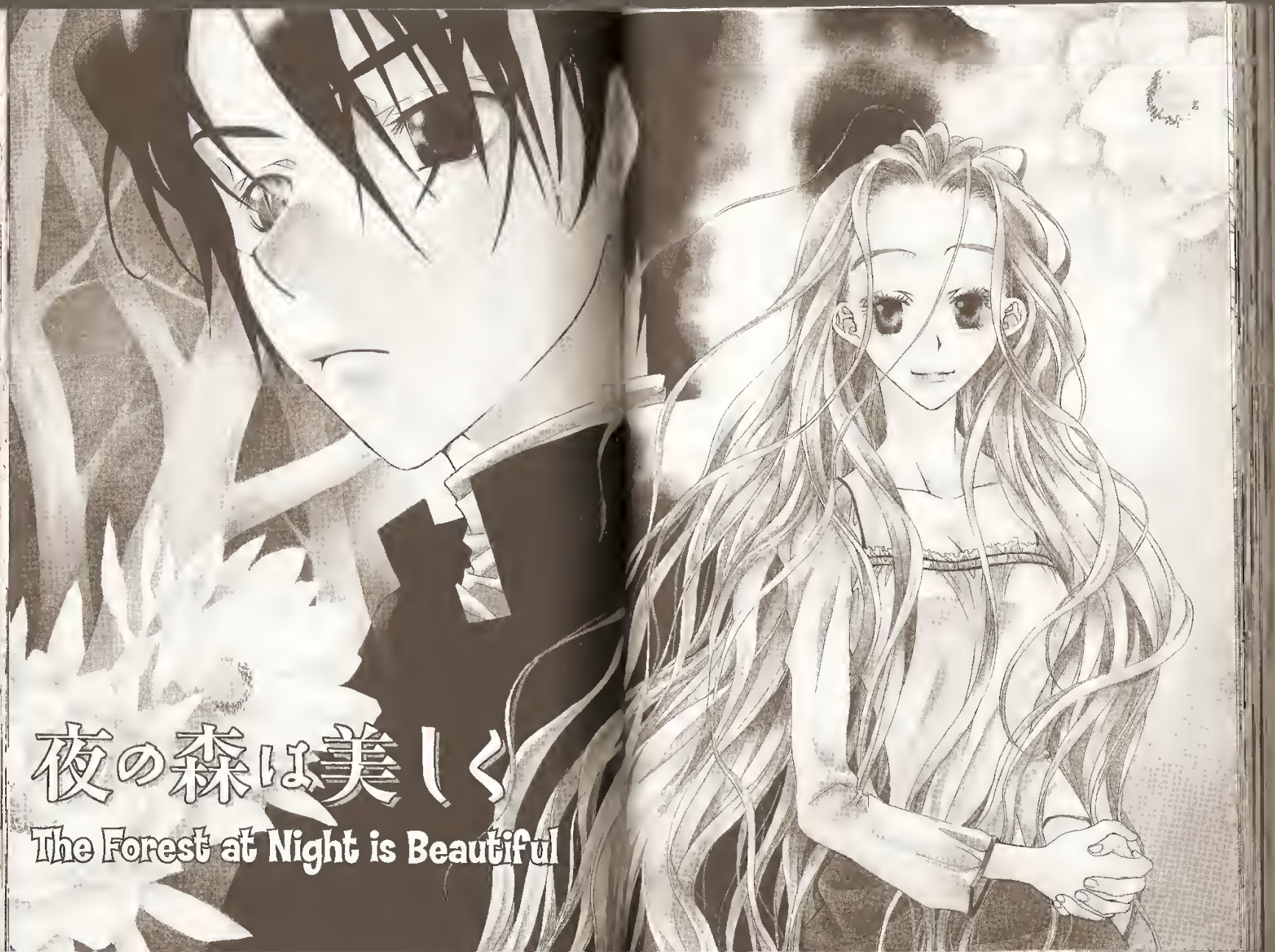
Heh heh

THAT'S A SECRET.

WHAAAT?

You meanie!

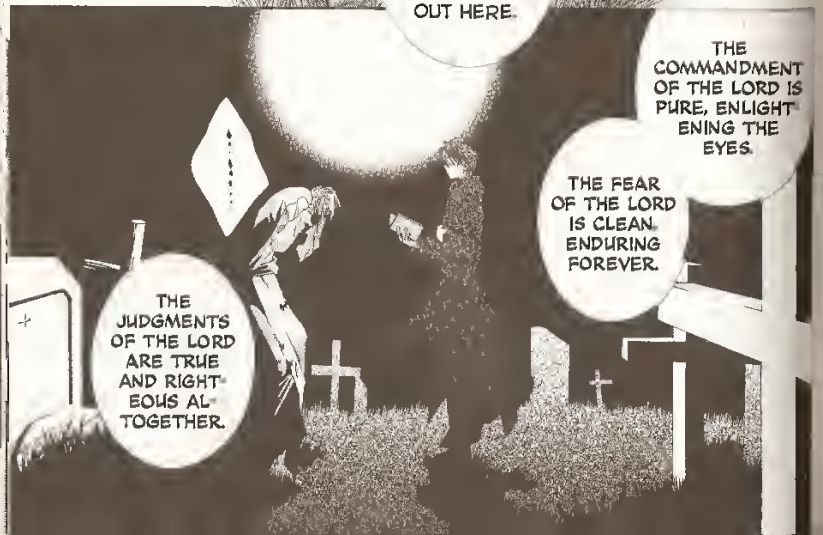
THE COLOR OF WATER, THE BLUE OF THE SEA ✝ END

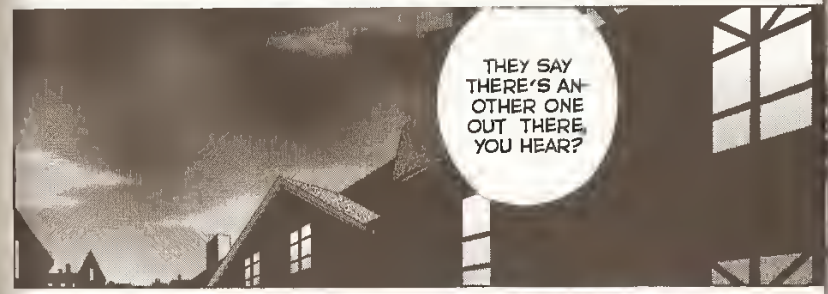

夜の森は美しく
The Forest at Night is Beautiful

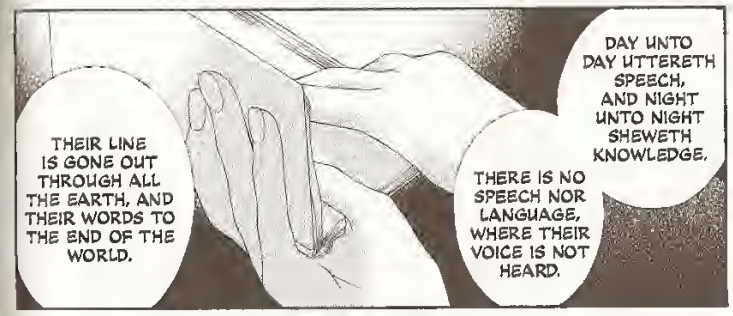
IT'S SAID THAT THEIR NATURE AS THE NEWLY RISEN IS TO THIRST FOR BLOOD.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR BODIES ARE HUMAN, THEY PREY ON OTHER HUMANS.
IT IS THEIR FORMER FAMILY AND FRIENDS WHO ARE IN THE MOST DANGER.
EVEN THOUGH THEIR FORMS REMAIN SIMILAR, THE RESURRECTED ARE STILL DECEASED...
THERE ARE ALSO RARE CASES OF THOSE WHO DO NOT CHANGE FORM WHEN THEY DIE.
BUT THE DIFFERENCES END THERE AS THESE BEINGS ALSO FEED ON HUMAN BLOOD.

IT'S HARD ON ALL OF US.
WELL, AT LEAST IT HASN'T HAPPENED *WITHIN* THE VILLAGE YET.
WHAT'S GOING ON? I MEAN, HAVEN'T THERE BEEN MORE THAN USUAL LATELY?
THAT'S A GOOD POINT...

...AND REJOICETH AS A STRONG MAN TO RUN A RACE. HIS GOING FORTH IS FROM THE END OF HEAVEN, AND HIS CIRCUIT UNTO THE ENDS OF IT: AND THERE IS NOTHING HID FROM THE HEAT THEREOF.
...WHICH IS AS A BRIDEGROOM COMING OUT OF HIS CHAMBER ...
IN THEM HATH HE SET A TABERNACLE FOR THE SUN...


THANKS TO THAT PRIEST... IT'S GOOD OF HIM TO COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE.
THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD IS PURE, ENLIGHTENING THE EYES.
THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS CLEAN, ENDURING FOREVER.
THE JUDGMENTS OF THE LORD ARE TRUE AND RIGHTEOUS ALTOGETHER.



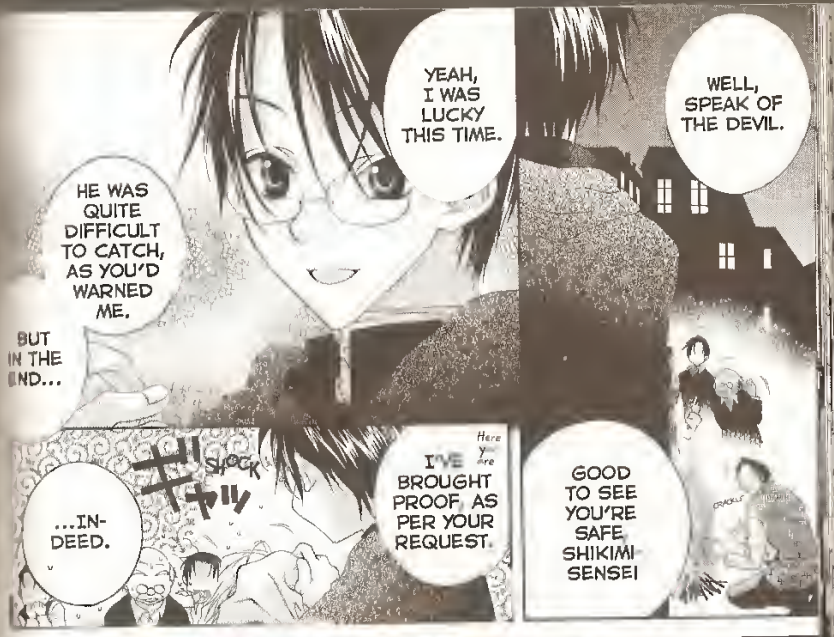

THEIR LINE IS GONE OUT THROUGH ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE END OF THE WORLD.
DAY UNTO DAY UTTERETH SPEECH, AND NIGHT UNTO NIGHT SHEWETH KNOWLEDGE.
THERE IS NO SPEECH NOR LANGUAGE, WHERE THEIR VOICE IS NOT HEARD.

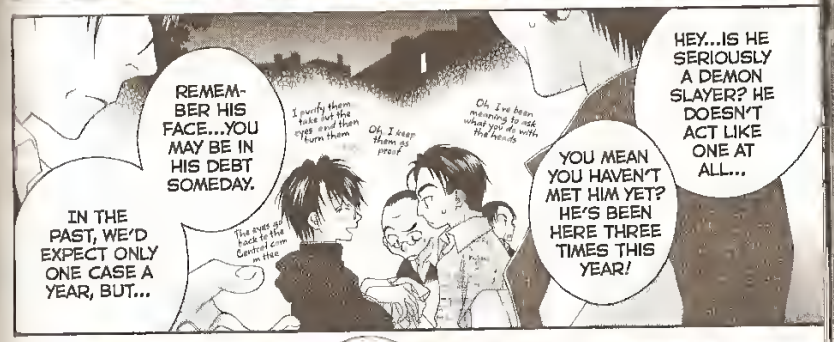
* Token from the Holy Bible, King James Version

...AND MY REDEEMER.
PLOP
YEAH, I GUESS...
OUR POOR VILLAGE IS IN NO POSITION TO ASK FOR ONE.
AND EVEN THOUGH THAT PRIEST ISN'T OF THE HIGHEST QUALIFICATIONS, HE'S NOT BAD.
EXCUSE ME...
NO, REALLY. THINK ABOUT IT.
THEY CHARGE A HUGE FEE FOR SENDING OVER AN OFFICIAL DEMON SLAYER...
AND THE MORE SKILLED THEY ARE, THE HIGHER THE PRICE!
MOREOVER BY THEM IS THY SERVANT WARNED: AND IN KEEPING OF THEM THERE IS GREAT REWARD.
WHO CAN UNDERSTAND HIS ERRORS?
CLEANSE THOU ME FROM SECRET FAULTS.
MORE TO BE DESIRED ARE THEY THAN GOLD, YEA, THAN MUCH FINE GOLD.
SWEETER ALSO THAN HONEY...
...AND THE HONEYCOMB.
KNEEL
...O LORD, MY STRENGTH...
...BE ACCEPTABLE IN THY SIGHT...
LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH, AND THE MEDITATION OF MY HEART...
HISSSS

TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
IF YOU GO UP THIS HILL...
...UNTIL THE FOREST PARTS AND THE LANDSCAPE EXPANDS.
...JUST...
...A LITTLE FARTHER ...

...YOU CAN SEE A LITTLE VILLAGE BELOW.
...AND OVER THE TOP OF IT...
THAT'S WHERE I LIVE NOW.
Phew...!
WHAT ODD WEATHER FOR THE END OF OCTOBER...
IT SURE IS HOT.
.....

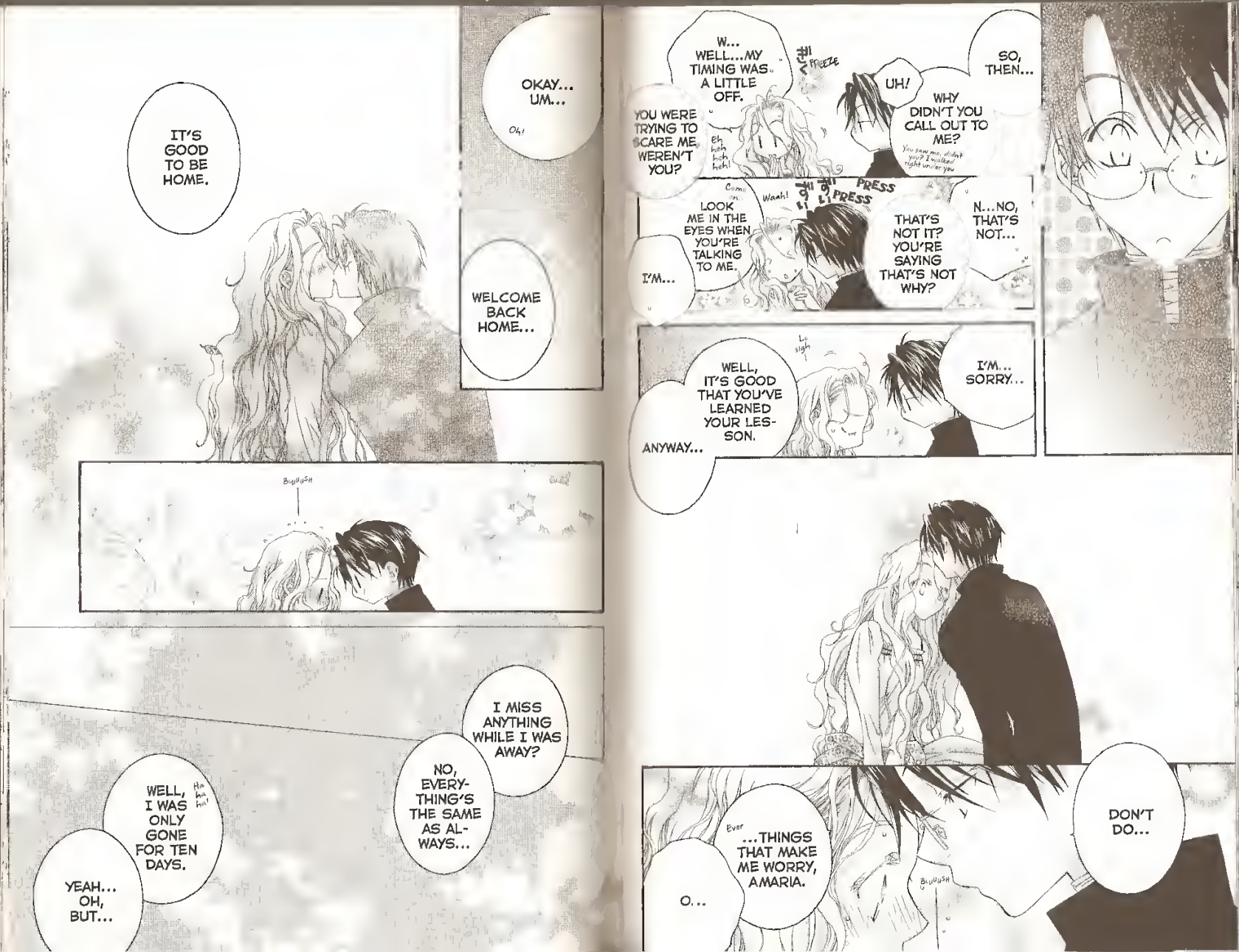

YEAH, I WAS LUCKY THIS TIME.
WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL.
HE WAS QUITE DIFFICULT TO CATCH, AS YOU'D WARNED ME.
BUT IN THE END...
...IN-DEED.
SHOCK
I'VE BROUGHT PROOF, AS PER YOUR REQUEST.
Here You are
GOOD TO SEE YOU'RE SAFE SHIKIMI SENSEI
CRACKLE


REMEMBER HIS FACE...YOU MAY BE IN HIS DEBT SOMEDAY.
IN THE PAST, WE'D EXPECT ONLY ONE CASE A YEAR, BUT...
I purify them take out the eyes and then turn them
Oh, I keep them as proof
Oh, I've been meaning to ask what you do with the heads
The event go back to the Central com m ttee
YOU MEAN YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM YET? HE'S BEEN HERE THREE TIMES THIS YEAR!
HEY...IS HE SERIOUSLY A DEMON SLAYER? HE DOESN'T ACT LIKE ONE AT ALL...

...THERE'VE BEEN MORE, LATELY...IT'S A BAD YEAR.

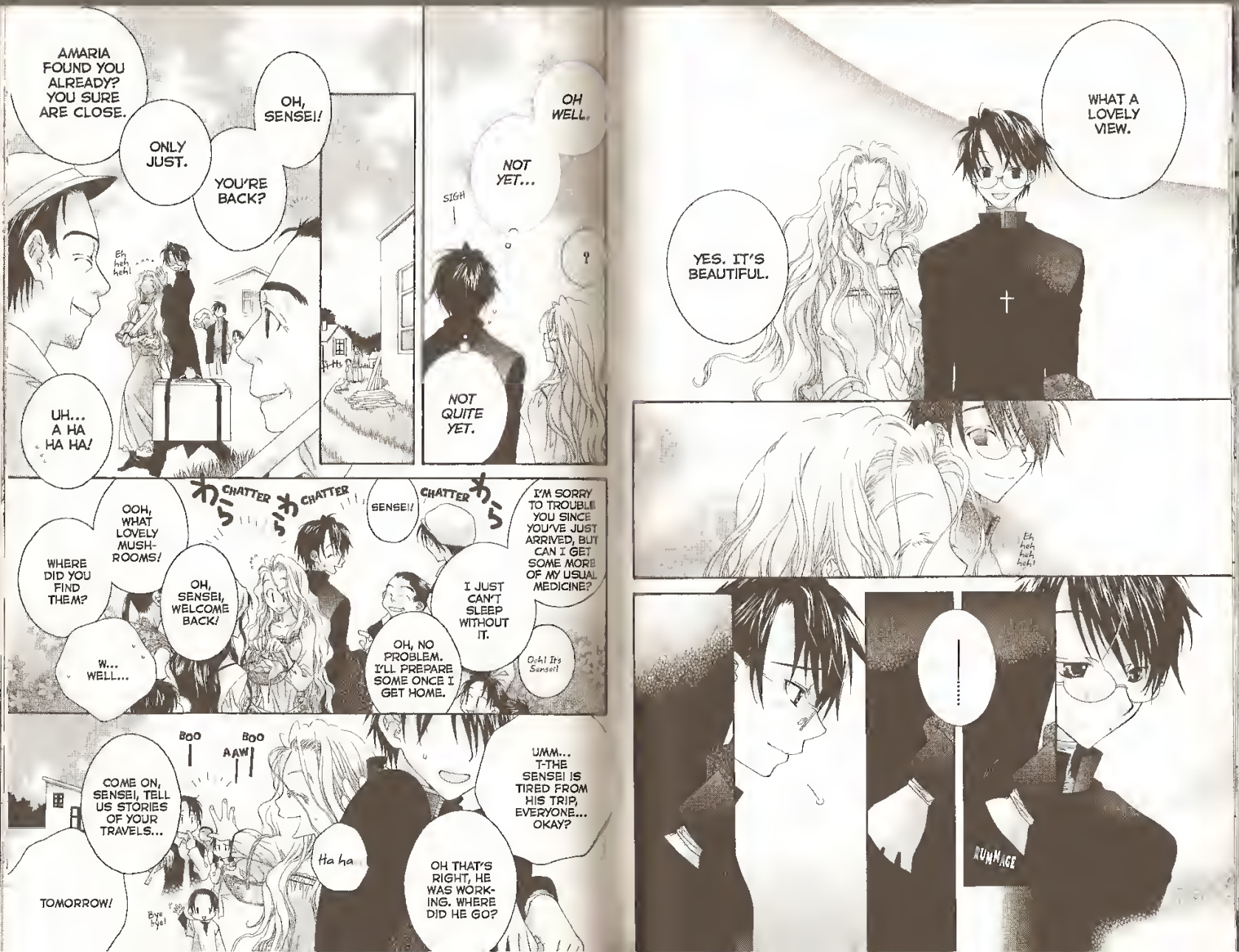
...JUST A LITTLE FARTHER NOW.
RUSTLE
AT LEAST IT'S ALL DOWN-HILL NOW, SO IT'S A LITTLE EAS-
PLOP
A MUSH-ROOM?
I'VE HEARD OF FISH FALLING FROM THE SKY, BUT THIS...?
DO SQUIR-RELS EAT MUSH-ROOMS?
THUMP
RUSTLE
PLOP
WHY DID IT FALL FROM THE SKY?
AH...
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
FLUTTER

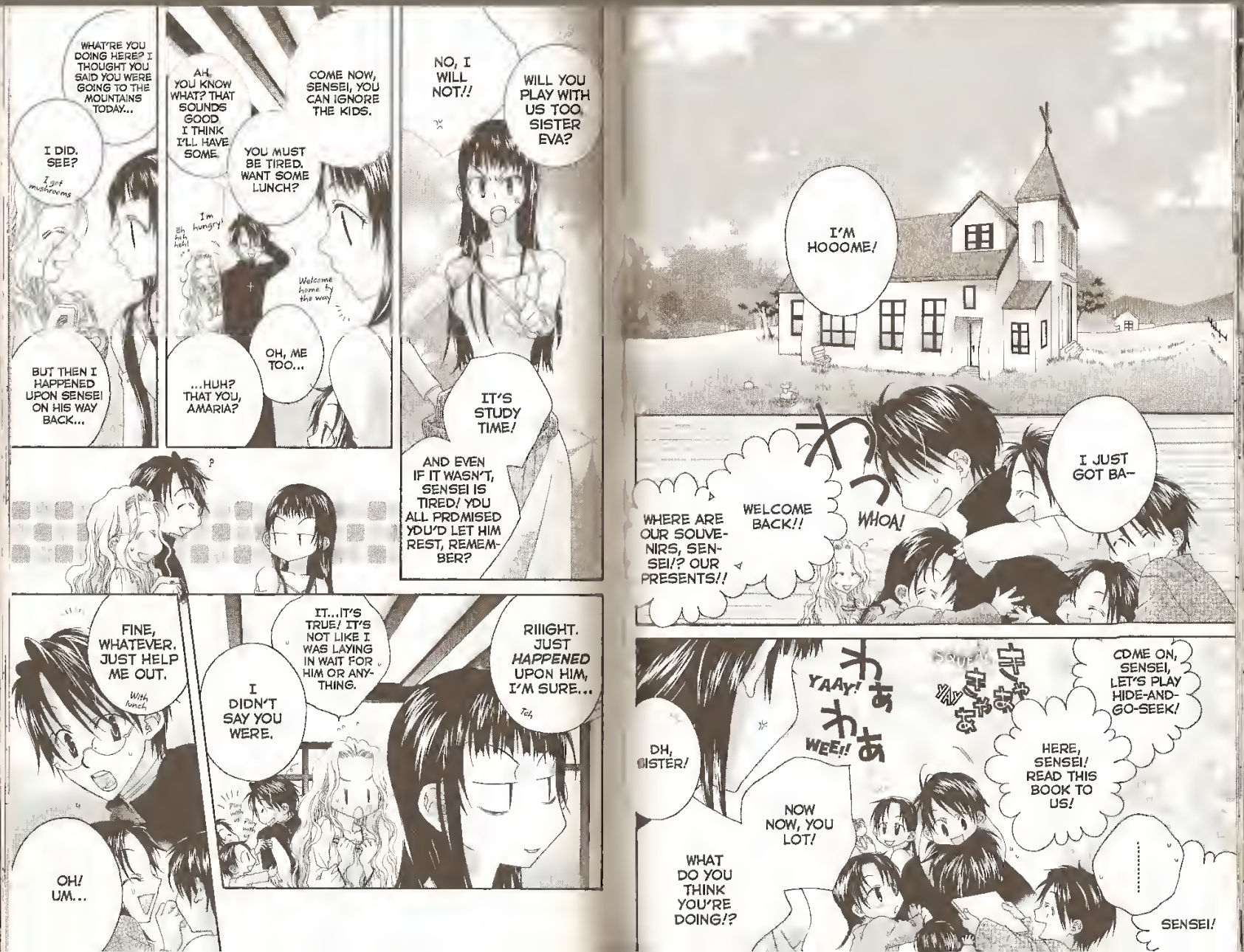
AMARIA...
YES?
...S...
SORRY...
Followed through with the expected punch line
EEK...!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
THUD
GYAH!
AND HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU TO NOT TO GO CLIMBING TREES?
SO ASIDE FROM APPEARANCES, WHAT ARE YOU REALLY DOING?
Eh heh heh! We're having stew tonight!
YES, WELL, FOR APPEARANCES' SAKE, I'M HUNTING MUSHROOMS!!
I also gather vegetables from the mountain and fruits from trees
WHAT'RE YOU DOING SO FAR OUT OF THE VILLAGE?
I WANTED TO BE THE FIRST TO GREET YOU...
I FIGURED IF I WERE IN A HIGH PLACE, I COULD SEE WHEN YOU WERE COMING HOME, SENSEI.
Well...
THE REAL REASON IS...
THEY MUST BE SOME PRETTY RARE MUSHROOMS...
...AMARIA.
ARE YOU PICKING MUSHROOMS ALL THE WAY UP THERE?
...SO I-
!
TEETER
AH...
A HA HA HA HA HA!
NO... ER, WELL... I THOUGHT THERE MIGHT BE SOME GROWING UP HERE...


IT'S GOOD TO BE HOME.
OKAY... UM...
Oh!
WELCOME BACK HOME...
Bigdugish
I MISS ANYTHING WHILE I WAS AWAY?
NO, EVERY-THING'S THE SAME AS AL-WAYS...
WELL, I WAS ONLY GONE FOR TEN DAYS.
Ha ha ha!
YEAH... OH, BUT...
W... WELL... MY TIMING WAS A LITTLE OFF.
YOU WERE TRYING TO SCARE ME, WEREN'T YOU?
Eh heh heh heh!
Ack! FREEZE
UH!
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL OUT TO ME?
You saw me, didn't you? I walked right under you
SO, THEN...
Come on
Waah!
PRESS
LOOK ME IN THE EYES WHEN YOU'RE TALKING TO ME.
I'M...
THAT'S NOT IT? YOU'RE SAYING THAT'S NOT WHY?
N... NO, THAT'S NOT...
Le sigh
WELL, IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LES-SON.
ANYWAY...
I'M... SORRY...
Ever
...THINGS THAT MAKE ME WORRY, AMARIA.
O...
Bigdugish
DON'T DO...

MAYBE WE CAN MOVE IN ONCE ALL SAINTS' DAY PASSES.
WE WOULDN'T BE SO CRAMPED ANYMORE!
AREN'T THEY HOLDING AN EVENT OVER THERE?
IT'S JUST ABOUT DONE NOW, I THINK.
EVA SAID THERE'RE ONLY A FEW THINGS LEFT TO DO.
YEAH, THEY ARE...IT'S ROOMIER AND STILL CLOSE TO THE VILLAGE.
REALLY? IT'LL BE DONE SOON, THEN.
THOUGH I WOULDN'T MIND GOING TO EITHER, LIKE I ALWAYS DO.
AH, LOOK.
WE SHOULD START MOVING FURNITURE INTO IT...
SEE IT, SENSEI?
I JUST REALIZED YOU CAN SEE THE CHURCH IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS FROM RIGHT HERE ON THE BRIDGE!
Thought it's kinda hard to.
AH, YOU'RE RIGHT. HOW WONDERFUL.
I THOUGHT IT'D BE HIDDEN AMONG ALL THE TREES.

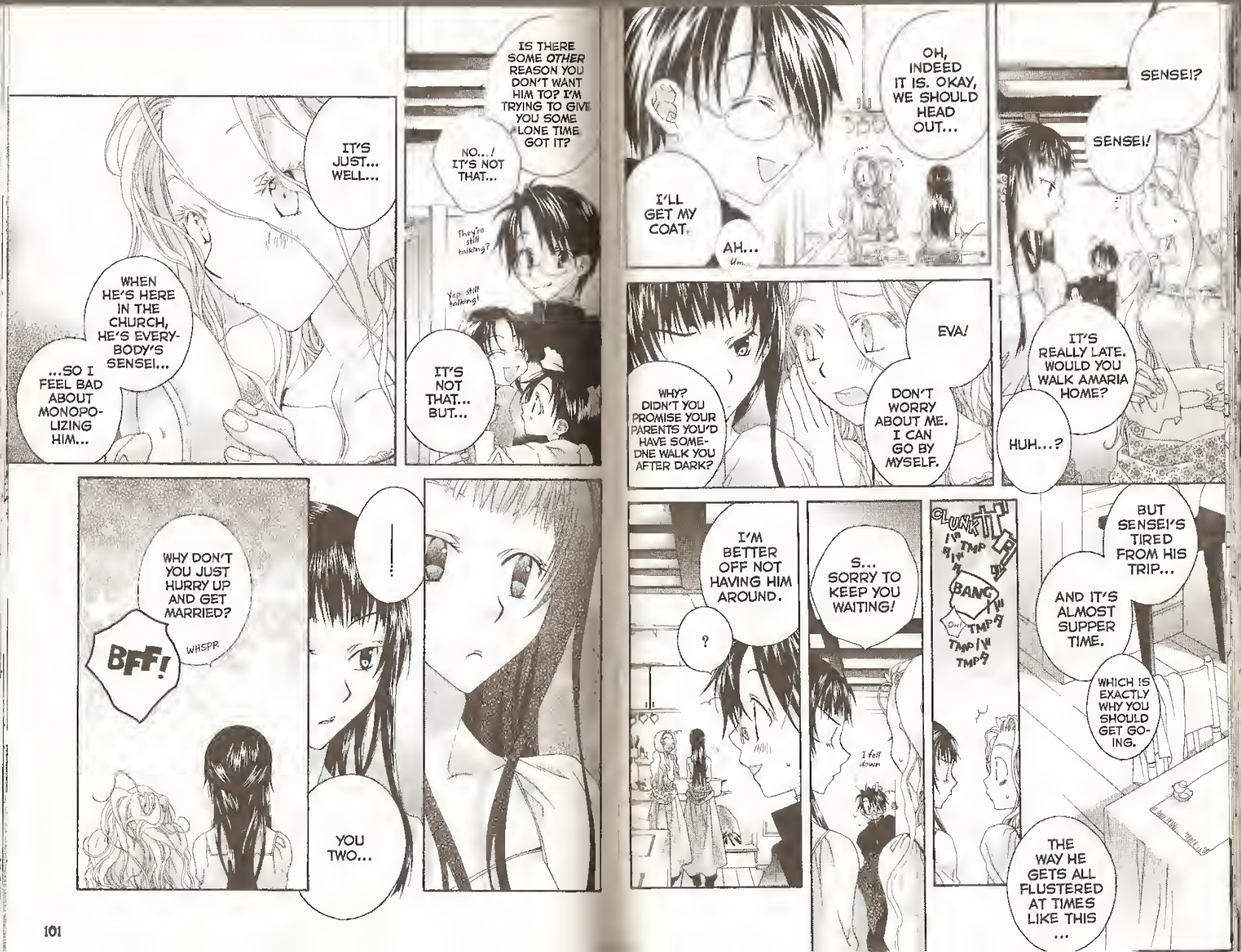
IT'S NOT SO BAD.
.....
IT'S...
?
Ahem
ARE YOUR DUTIES AS A PRIEST THAT DEMANDING?
UH...
Look at me.
BUT I'M SURE YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELING A LOT MORE OFTEN...
I'VE ONLY EVER SEEN YOU IN THE VILLAGE...
THAT REMINDS ME.
Don't you always look at someone's eyes when talking?
... WELL.
S-SORTA, MAYBE...
FREEZE
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING SO MANY DIFFERENT PLACES LATELY.
IT FEELS LIKE YOU'VE BEEN LEAVING SO OFTEN.
IT MUST BE DIFFICULT ...
OH, YEAH.
?
YOU'VE BEEN TRAVELING SO MUCH, I GUESS YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT.
I WONDER WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE ON THE JOB IN OTHER PLA—
AH!
THAT'S RIGHT?!
The ch
THE CHURCH! HOW'S THE CHURCH IN THE NORTHERN MOUNTAINS COMING ALONG?
STARE

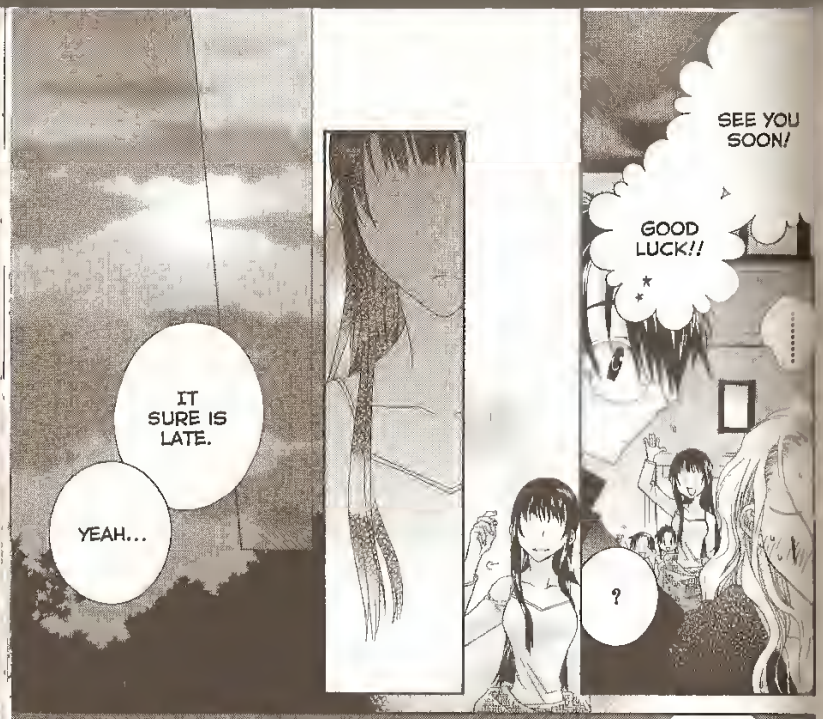

AMARIA FOUND YOU ALREADY? YOU SURE ARE CLOSE.
ONLY JUST.
OH, SENSEI!
YOU'RE BACK?
Eh heh heh!
UH... A HA HA HA!
OH WELL.
NOT YET...
SIGH
?
NOT QUITE YET.
WHAT A LOVELY VIEW.
YES. IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
Eh heh heh!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
SENSEI!
OOH, WHAT LOVELY MUSH-ROOMS!
WHERE DID YOU FIND THEM?
OH, SENSEI, WELCOME BACK!
W... WELL...
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU SINCE YOU'VE JUST ARRIVED, BUT CAN I GET SOME MORE OF MY USUAL MEDICINE?
I JUST CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT IT.
OH, NO PROBLEM. I'LL PREPARE SOME ONCE I GET HOME.
Ooh! It's Sensei!
BOO
BOO
AAW
COME ON, SENSEI, TELL US STORIES OF YOUR TRAVELS...
TOMORROW!
Bye bye!
Ha ha
OH THAT'S RIGHT, HE WAS WORK-ING. WHERE DID HE GO?
UMM... T-THE SENSEI IS TIRED FROM HIS TRIP, EVERYONE... OKAY?
RUMMAGE


I'M HOOOME!
I JUST GOT BA-
WHOA!
WELCOME BACK!!
WHERE ARE OUR SOUVENIRS, SENSEI!? OUR PRESENTS!!
COME ON, SENSEI, LET'S PLAY HIDE-AND-GO-SEEK!
HERE, SENSEI! READ THIS BOOK TO US!
SENSEI!
YAAy!
WEE!!
OH, SISTER!
NOW NOW, YOU LOT!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
WILL YOU PLAY WITH US TOO, SISTER EVA?
NO, I WILL NOT!!
IT'S STUDY TIME!
AND EVEN IF IT WASN'T, SENSEI IS TIRED! YOU ALL PROMISED YOU'D LET HIM REST, REMEMBER?
COME NOW, SENSEI, YOU CAN IGNORE THE KIDS.
AH. YOU KNOW WHAT? THAT SOUNDS GOOD. I THINK I'LL HAVE SOME.
YOU MUST BE TIRED. WANT SOME LUNCH?
I'm hungry!
Welcome home by the way
...HUH? THAT YOU, AMARIA?
OH, ME TOO...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE? I THOUGHT YOU SAID YOU WERE GOING TO THE MOUNTAINS TODAY...
I DID. SEE?
I got mushrooms
BUT THEN I HAPPENED UPON SENSEI ON HIS WAY BACK...
RIIIGHT. JUST HAPPENED UPON HIM, I'M SURE...
IT...IT'S TRUE! IT'S NOT LIKE I WAS LAYING IN WAIT FOR HIM OR ANYTHING.
I DIDN'T SAY YOU WERE.
FINE, WHATEVER. JUST HELP ME OUT.
With lunch
OH! UM...

THANKS, SENSEI!
I'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF IT!
SO, YEAH.
THERE WERE A BUNCH OF THEM IN BLOOM ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE. LET'S GO PICK SOME TOMORROW.
They're really gorgeous
YEAH? SOUNDS GOOD. WE CAN GET A VASE READY FOR THEM.
OH, NO!
IT'S ALREADY SO DARK OUT...
STIR STIR

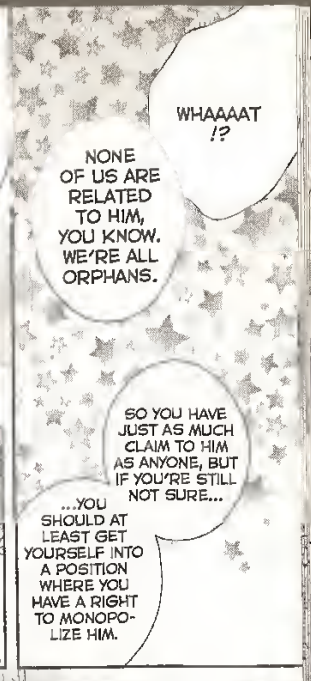
YES?
WELL...
Um...
I GOT YOU TWO SOME SOUVENIRS, ALSO...
OH, THEY'RE BEAUTI-FUL!
THEY AREN'T MUCH, BUT...
I THOUGHT IT COULD BE A SHOW OF THANKS FOR ALWAYS HELP-ING US OUT...
I'LL TAKE THIS ONE! ♥
I feel left out
That's not fair!!
WHAT'S IT MATTER? THEY'RE BOTH PRETTY!
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
SQUEAL
Whaat?!
YOU SNEAK! I DIDN'T EVEN GET TO SEE IT FIRST!


IT'S JUST... WELL...
WHEN HE'S HERE IN THE CHURCH, HE'S EVERYBODY'S SENSEI...
...SO I FEEL BAD ABOUT MONOPOLIZING HIM...
IS THERE SOME OTHER REASON YOU DON'T WANT HIM TO? I'M TRYING TO GIVE YOU SOME ALONE TIME GOT IT?
NO...! IT'S NOT THAT...
They're still talking?
Yep still talking!
IT'S NOT THAT... BUT...
WHY DON'T YOU JUST HURRY UP AND GET MARRIED?
BFF!
WHSPR
!
YOU TWO...
OH, INDEED IT IS. OKAY, WE SHOULD HEAD OUT...
I'LL GET MY COAT.
AH... Um...
SENSEI?
SENSEI!
IT'S REALLY LATE. WOULD YOU WALK AMARIA HOME?
HUH...?
EVA!
WHY? DIDN'T YOU PROMISE YOUR PARENTS YOU'D HAVE SOMEONE WALK YOU AFTER DARK?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME. I CAN GO BY MYSELF.
I'M BETTER OFF NOT HAVING HIM AROUND.
?
S... SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING!
I fell down
CLUNK
1st TMP
BANG
Ow!
TMP
BUT SENSEI'S TIRED FROM HIS TRIP...
AND IT'S ALMOST SUPPER TIME.
WHICH IS EXACTLY WHY YOU SHOULD GET GOING.
THE WAY HE GETS ALL FLUSTERED AT TIMES LIKE THIS ...


IT SURE IS LATE.
YEAH...
SEE YOU SOON!
GOOD LUCK!!
?

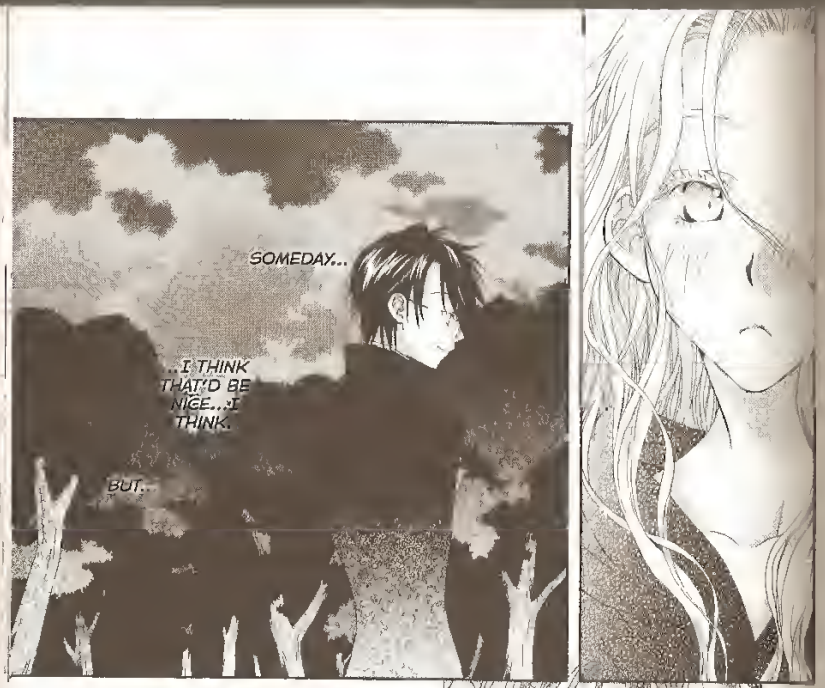
OH... YEAH.
I DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING ELSE I HAD TO DO...
THANK YOU, AMARIA.
HUH?
EVA TOLD ME YOU CAME TO HELP OUT WHILE I WAS AWAY.
BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU, SENSEI? YOU'VE BEEN SO BUSY... YOU'RE NOT PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD?
DON'T WORRY. I DO IT BECAUSE I WANT TO!
Eh heh heh!
I'M SORRY YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO BAIL US OUT.

I ONLY DECIDED TO SETTLE HERE BECAUSE NO ONE WOULD TAKE ME IN.
SO, I WISH THERE WAS SOMEONE ASIDE FROM ME TO LOOK AFTER SENSEI...
I DON'T THINK I CAN MARRY UNTIL THEN...
WHAT?
HE'S STILL PRETTY IMMATURE, SO YOU'VE GOTTA WHIP HIM INTO SHAPE.
-RIGHT, SENSEI?
TH...
That's why!?

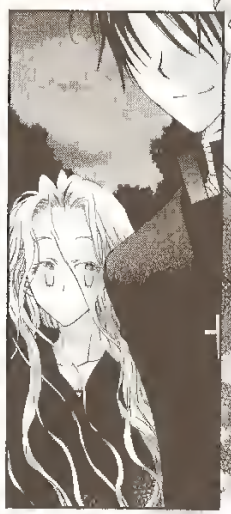

WHAAAAT !?
NONE OF US ARE RELATED TO HIM, YOU KNOW. WE'RE ALL ORPHANS.
SO YOU HAVE JUST AS MUCH CLAIM TO HIM AS ANYONE, BUT IF YOU'RE STILL NOT SURE...
...YOU SHOULD AT LEAST GET YOURSELF INTO A POSITION WHERE YOU HAVE A RIGHT TO MONOPOLIZE HIM.

UH...
GAH... MY FACE IS BURNING...
...O... KAY...

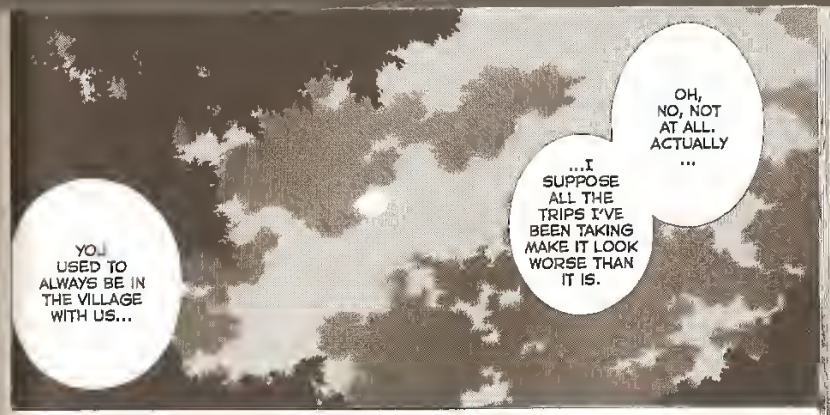
?
WHAT IS IT?
AMARIA SAID SHE NEEDS TO GET HOME.
Hee hee hee
OH, RIGHT. WELL THEN, SHALL WE GO?

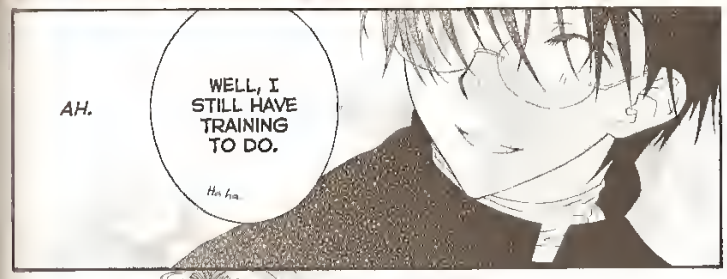

SOMEDAY...
...I THINK THAT'D BE NICE...I THINK.
BUT...

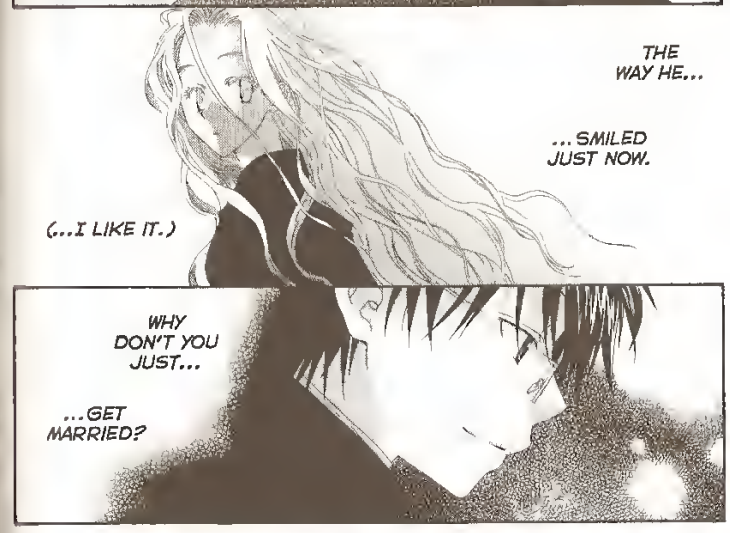
.....



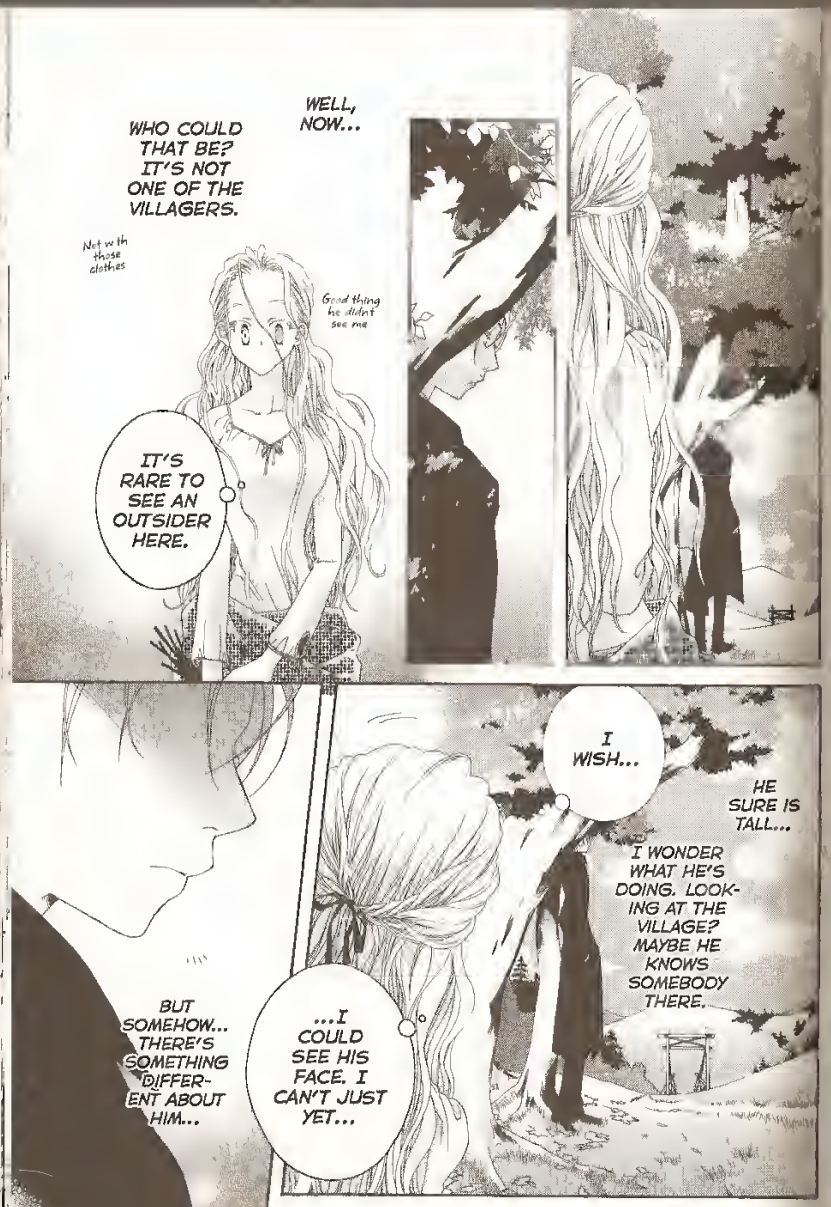
BUT...

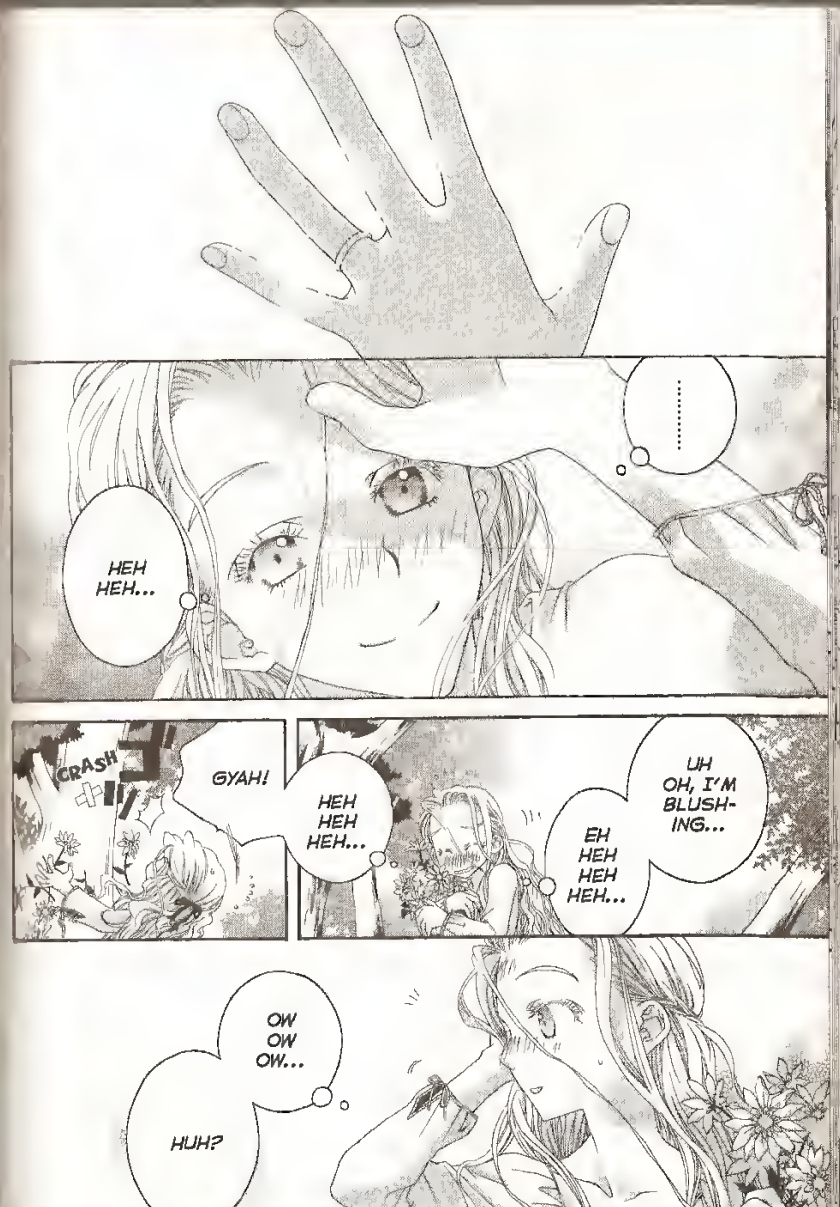

YOU USED TO ALWAYS BE IN THE VILLAGE WITH US...
...I SUPPOSE ALL THE TRIPS I'VE BEEN TAKING MAKE IT LOOK WORSE THAN IT IS.
OH, NO, NOT AT ALL. ACTUALLY ...


AH.
WELL, I STILL HAVE TRAINING TO DO.
Ha ha

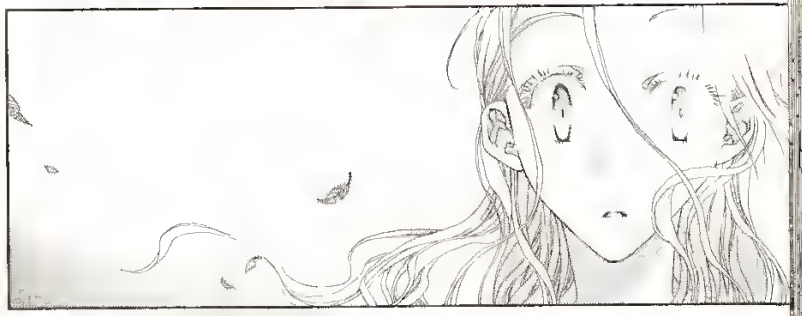

THE WAY HE...
...SMILED JUST NOW.
(...I LIKE IT.)
WHY DON'T YOU JUST...
...GET MARRIED?

OR SO...
...I...
...THOUGHT.
.....
THAT'S ALL I NEED.
LISTEN... AMARIA.
HM?
GETTING TO WALK BY HIS SIDE...
I ACTUALLY HAVE ONE MORE THING FOR YOU...
HUH?
GETTING TO HEAR HIS VOICE...
...I... UH...
...THE FOREST IS SO DARK AT NIGHT...I ALWAYS GET SCARED.
I THINK...
...IT'D BE NICE...
...BUT...
TOUCH
...I'M FINE WITH HOW THINGS ARE FOR NOW.
Eh heh heh
BUT TONIGHT... I THINK IT'S BEAUTIFUL.
...THOUGHT.
WHAT DO I DO!? WHAT DO I DO!?
OH, SENSEI! SENSEI! SENSEI!!
ONE MORE...

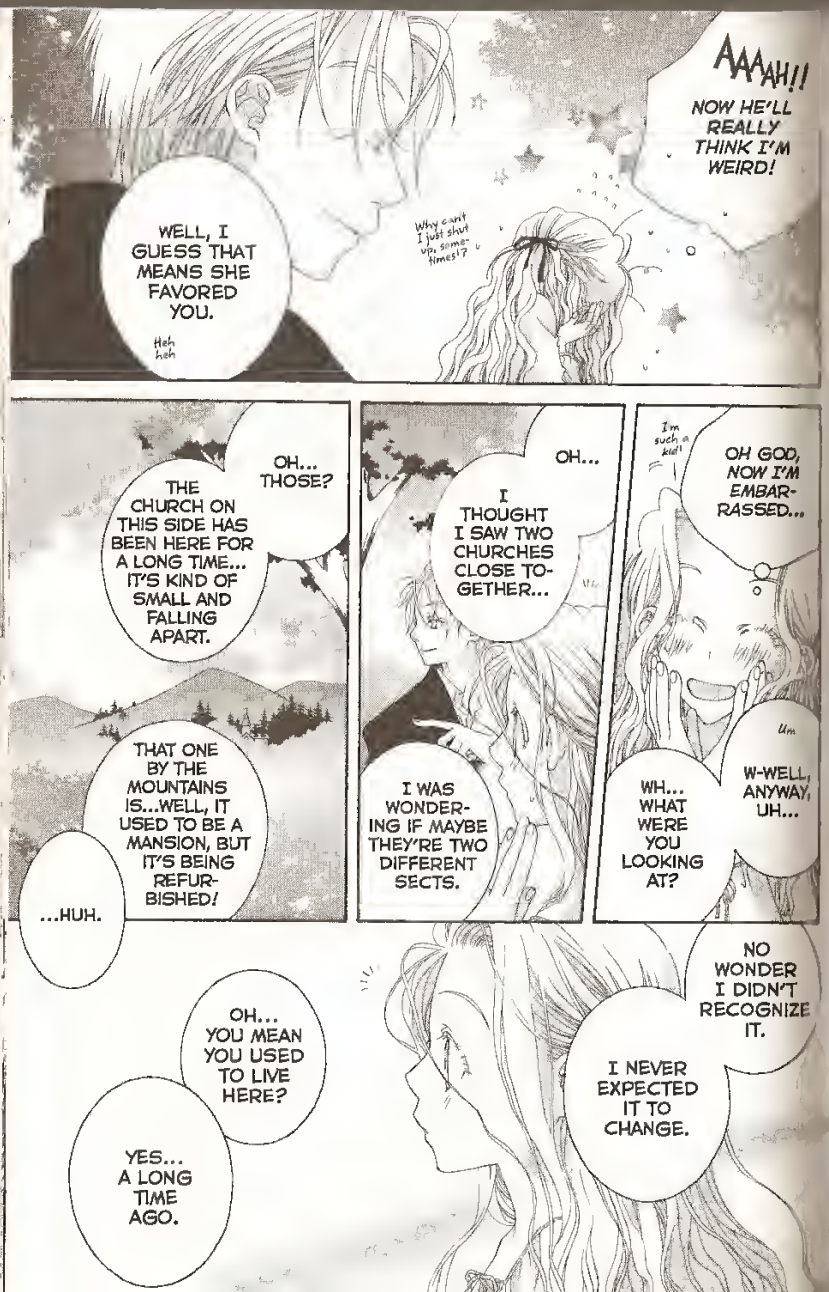

WELL, NOW...
WHO COULD THAT BE? IT'S NOT ONE OF THE VILLAGERS.
Not with those clothes
Good thing he didn't see me
IT'S RARE TO SEE AN OUTSIDER HERE.
I WISH...
HE SURE IS TALL...
I WONDER WHAT HE'S DOING. LOOKING AT THE VILLAGE? MAYBE HE KNOWS SOMEBODY THERE.
...I COULD SEE HIS FACE. I CAN'T JUST YET...
BUT SOMEHOW... THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM...


.....
HEH HEH...
CRASH
GYAH!
HEH HEH HEH...
EH HEH HEH HEH...
UH OH, I'M BLUSHING...
OW OW OW...
HUH?

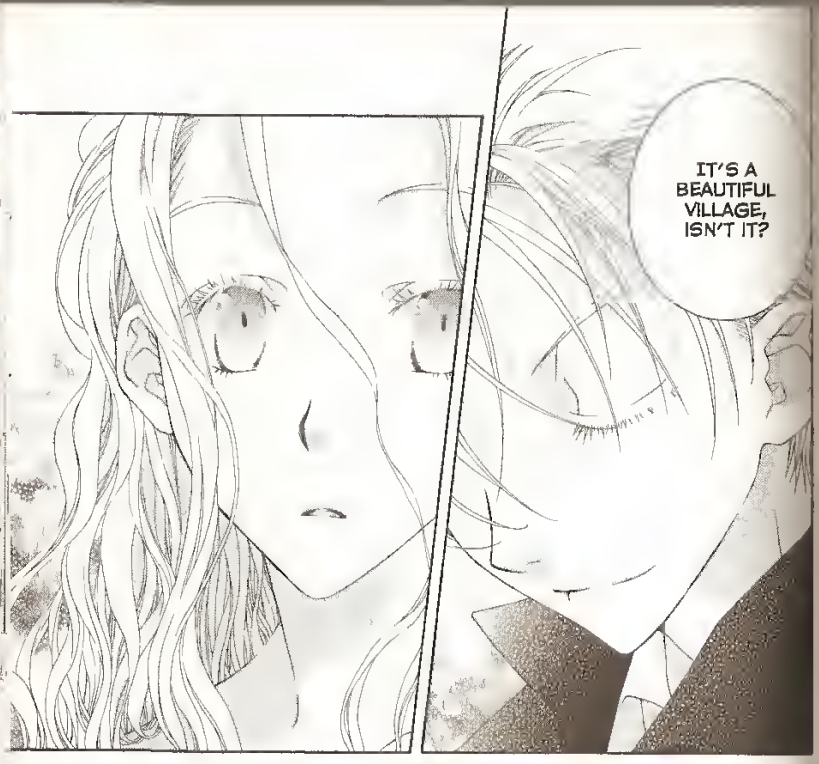
WOOO

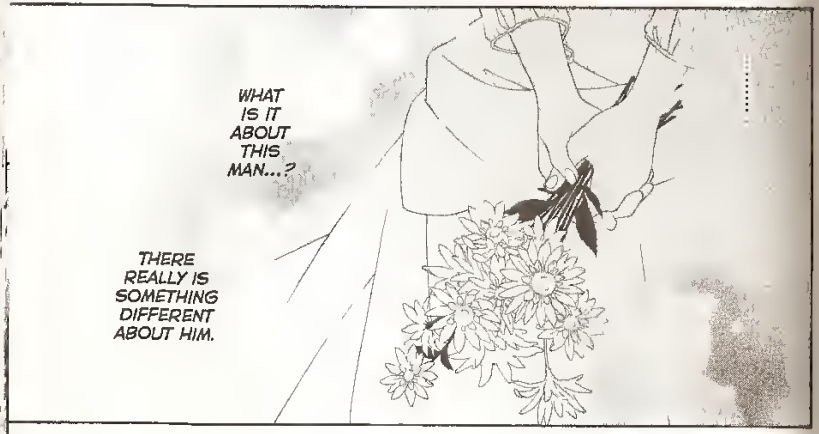


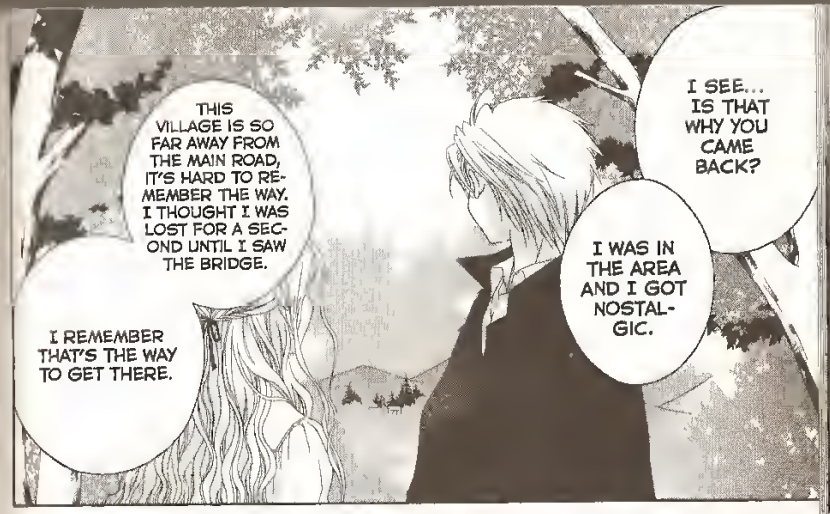
HELLO THERE,
YOUNG LADY.
You dropped this
IT'S MORE LIKE... HMM... MYSTERIOUS...
MAYBE THAT'S WHY SOMETHING FELT STRANGE.
OH, BUT IT'S RUDE TO CALL IT STRANGE.
AH.
NOW THAT I'VE GOT A GOOD LOOK AT HIM, HIS FACE AND SKIN COLOR ARE ALSO A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
HE MUST BE FROM THE WEST.
HE'S...
BLONDE...! BLONDE HAIR! IT'S BLONDE HAIR! THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN IT!!
(Besides myself)
OH! AND HIS EYES ARE BLUE! I'VE NEVER SEEN BLUE EYES, ONLY BLACK AND BROWN!
WAAAH! WAAAH! HOW RARE!!
S... SORRY! I WAS THINKING...
GASP
UH ...!
HUH? OH! YES! HELLO!!
I WONOER IF I'VE UPSET HIM.
GLANCE
GYAAAH...
THAT WAS SO RUDE OF ME! I WAS STARING...
I ALWAYS FORGET MY MANNERS LIKE THAT... EVERYONE SAYS SO.
OH GOO...

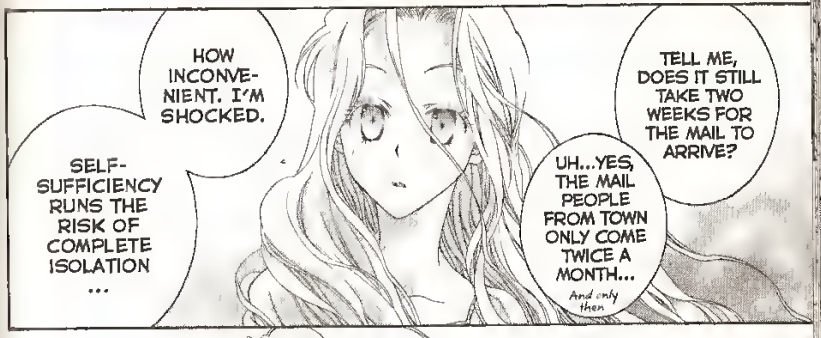

AAAAH!!
NOW HE'LL REALLY THINK I'M WEIRD!
Why can't I just shut up sometimes!?
WELL, I GUESS THAT MEANS SHE FAVORED YOU.
Heh heh
OH... THOSE?
THE CHURCH ON THIS SIDE HAS BEEN HERE FOR A LONG TIME... IT'S KIND OF SMALL AND FALLING APART.
THAT ONE BY THE MOUNTAINS IS...WELL, IT USED TO BE A MANSION, BUT IT'S BEING REFURBISHED!
...HUH.
OH...
I THOUGHT I SAW TWO CHURCHES CLOSE TOGETHER...
I WAS WONDERING IF MAYBE THEY'RE TWO DIFFERENT SECTS.
I'm such a kid!
OH GOD, NOW I'M EMBARRASSED...
WH... WHAT WERE YOU LOOKING AT?
Um
W-WELL, ANYWAY, UH...
OH... YOU MEAN YOU USED TO LIVE HERE?
YES... A LONG TIME AGO.
I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO CHANGE.
NO WONDER I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE IT.

OH, I'M SORRY.
IT'S JUST SO RARE TO SEE ANOTHER BLONDE AROUND HERE...
NO, NOT AT ALL!
I APOLOGIZE FOR MY POOR MANNERS.
...UH...
UM...?
.....?
THEY SAY I LOOK LIKE MY LATE GRANDMOTHER. SO I GUESS IT WASN'T SO RARE A FEW GENERATIONS BACK.
THEY SAY I'M AN ATAVISM.
I... I ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE...
Um
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ONE OTHER THAN MYSELF! MY PARENTS BOTH HAVE DARK HAIR...
.....
GASP
ACTUALLY, JUST THE OTHER DAY THEY TOLD ME WE EVEN HAD SIMILAR FACES-


IT'S A BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE, ISN'T IT?

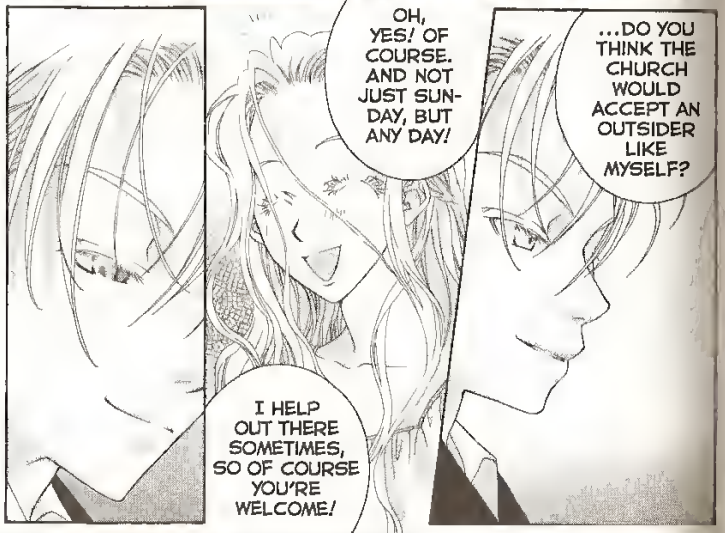

WHAT IS IT ABOUT THIS MAN...?
THERE REALLY IS SOMETHING DIFFERENT ABOUT HIM.


I SEE... IS THAT WHY YOU CAME BACK?
I WAS IN THE AREA AND I GOT NOSTALGIC.
THIS VILLAGE IS SO FAR AWAY FROM THE MAIN ROAD, IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER THE WAY. I THOUGHT I WAS LOST FOR A SECOND UNTIL I SAW THE BRIDGE.
I REMEMBER THAT'S THE WAY TO GET THERE.


TELL ME, DOES IT STILL TAKE TWO WEEKS FOR THE MAIL TO ARRIVE?
UH...YES, THE MAIL PEOPLE FROM TOWN ONLY COME TWICE A MONTH...
And only then
HOW INCONVENIENT. I'M SHOCKED.
SELF-SUFFICIENCY RUNS THE RISK OF COMPLETE ISOLATION ...

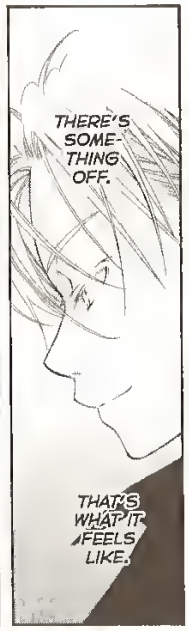
BUT, I REALLY LIKED THIS PLACE.

...IF I SHOULD STOP BY HERE AGAIN, PARTICULARLY ON A SUNDAY...
YES?
I HAVE TO LEAVE FOR THE MOMENT, BUT...

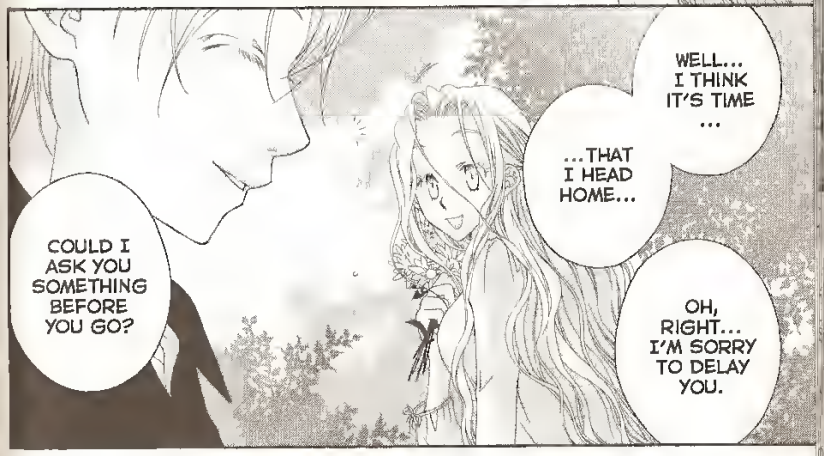

OH, YES! OF COURSE. AND NOT JUST SUNDAY, BUT ANY DAY!
...DO YOU THINK THE CHURCH WOULD ACCEPT AN OUTSIDER LIKE MYSELF?
I HELP OUT THERE SOMETIMES, SO OF COURSE YOU'RE WELCOME!

IN THAT CASE, AS A SYMBOL OF OUR MEETING...

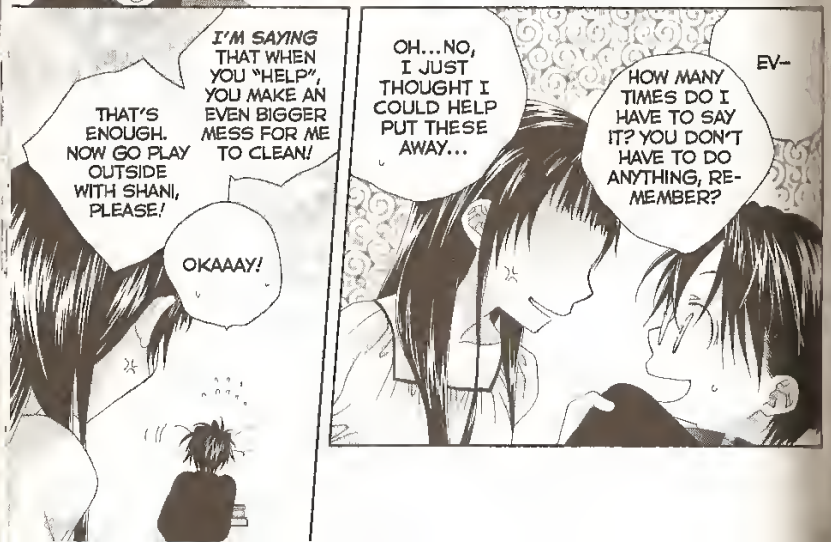
BUT WHAT...
JUST WHAT COULD IT BE?
...OH...

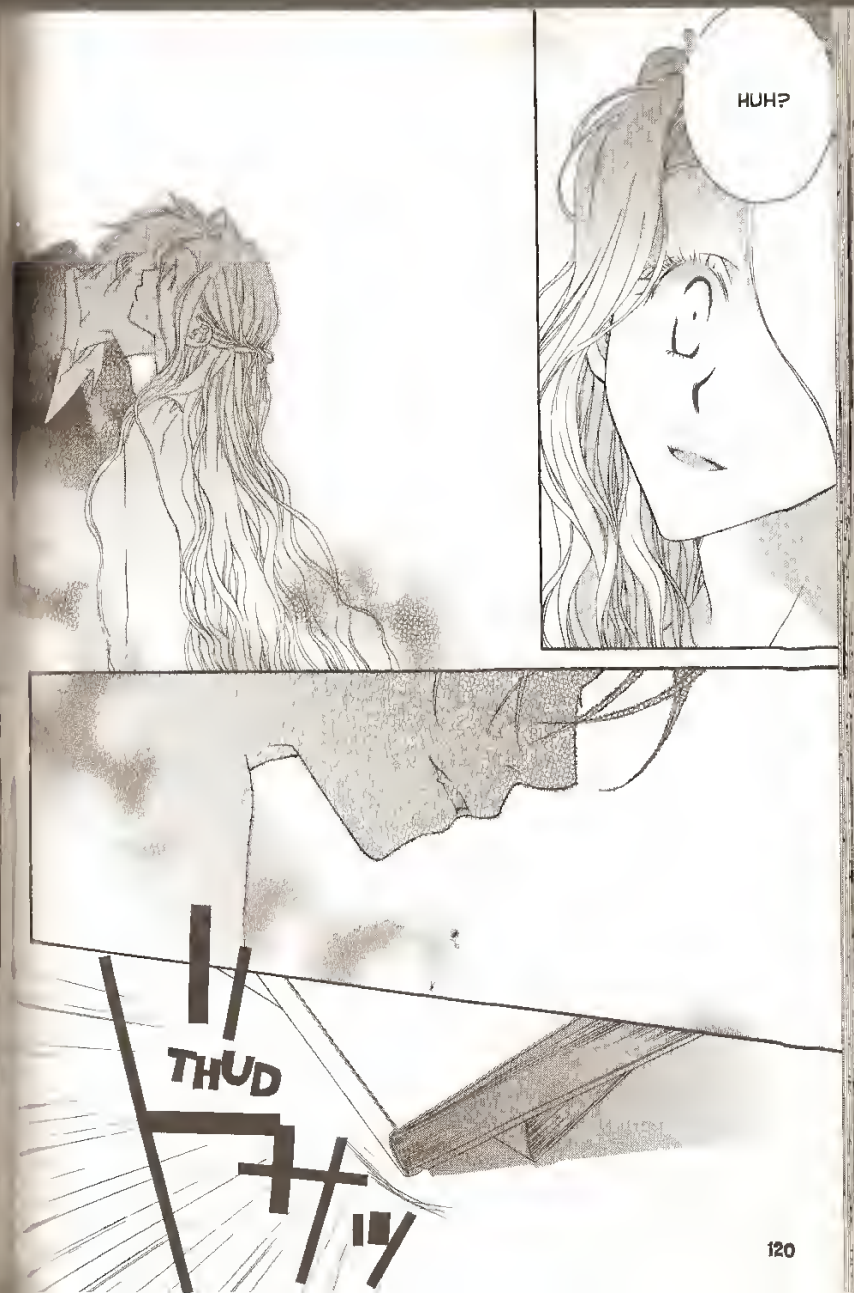

THERE'S SOMETHING OFF.
THAT'S WHAT IT FEELS LIKE.

BUT WHAT?
HIS EYE COLOR? HIS HAIR COLOR?
NO, IT'S NOT THAT... BUT...


COULD I ASK YOU SOMETHING BEFORE YOU GO?
...THAT I HEAD HOME...
WELL... I THINK IT'S TIME ...
OH, RIGHT... I'M SORRY TO DELAY YOU.

NO, NOT "HUH?". DON'T GIVE ME "HUH?"...!
.....
HUH?
OOH, SEN-SEI! YOU DROPPED IT AGAIN!
.....
SISTER EVA'S GONNA BE MAAAD!

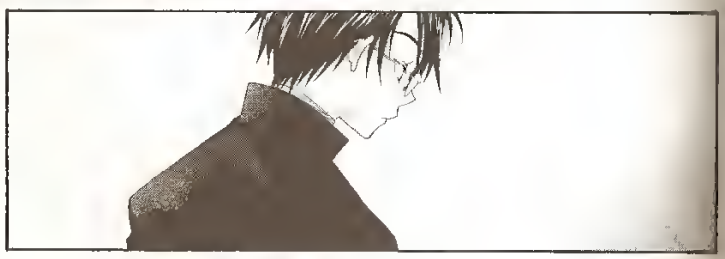

THAT'S ENOUGH. NOW GO PLAY OUTSIDE WITH SHANI, PLEASE!
I'M SAYING THAT WHEN YOU "HELP", YOU MAKE AN EVEN BIGGER MESS FOR ME TO CLEAN!
OKAAAY!
OH...NO, I JUST THOUGHT I COULD HELP PUT THESE AWAY...
EV-
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT? YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING, RE-MEMBER?


HUH?
THUD

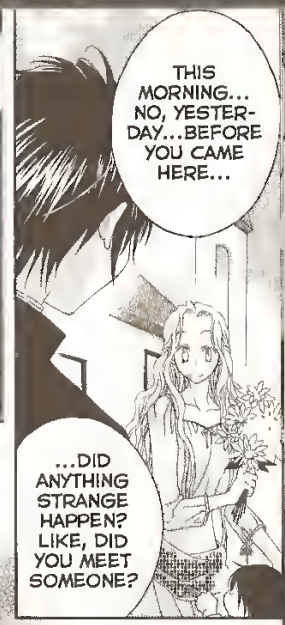
TH... THOSE ARE SOME BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS.
UH... HEH HEH HEH HEH!
THERE WERE SO MANY GROWING THERE...
I JUST PICKED THEM... OVER BY THE BRIDGE.
AMARIA?
YES?
IT WAS GONE ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, BUT...
OH!
IT'S SISTER AMARIA!
!
BUT...WHAT WAS THAT JUST NOW?
I FELT A SOMETHING STRANGE ...
GUILTY WEEP WEEP
HAAH... SHE'S SO MEAN...
IT'S NOT LIKE I DO IT ON PURPOSE...
BUT SHE'S RIGHT! YOU DO!
Kids say it like it is
.....
*SEE TRANSLATOR'S NOTES
H-H-H-H-HELLO...
...SENSEI, YOU TOO! ..H...
BLUSH
Is she a chicken?*
Oh, uh
HELLO, AMARIA.
HELLO, SISTER!
H... HELLO, EVERYBODY!

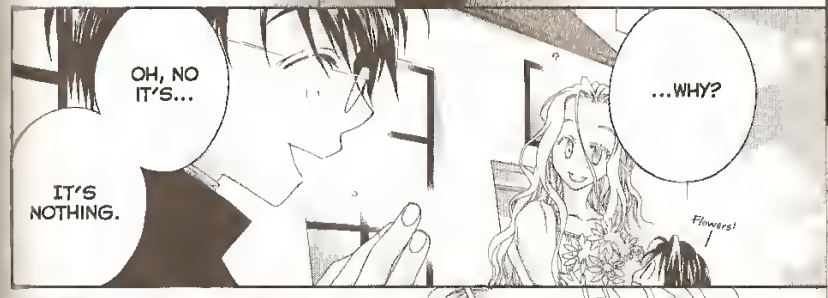
CHILL
OH, WELCOME, AMARIA!
HEEEY!
OH, COME LOOK AT THESE!

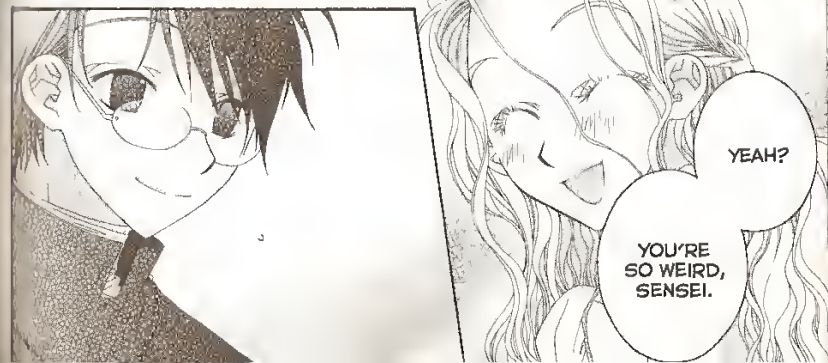
!

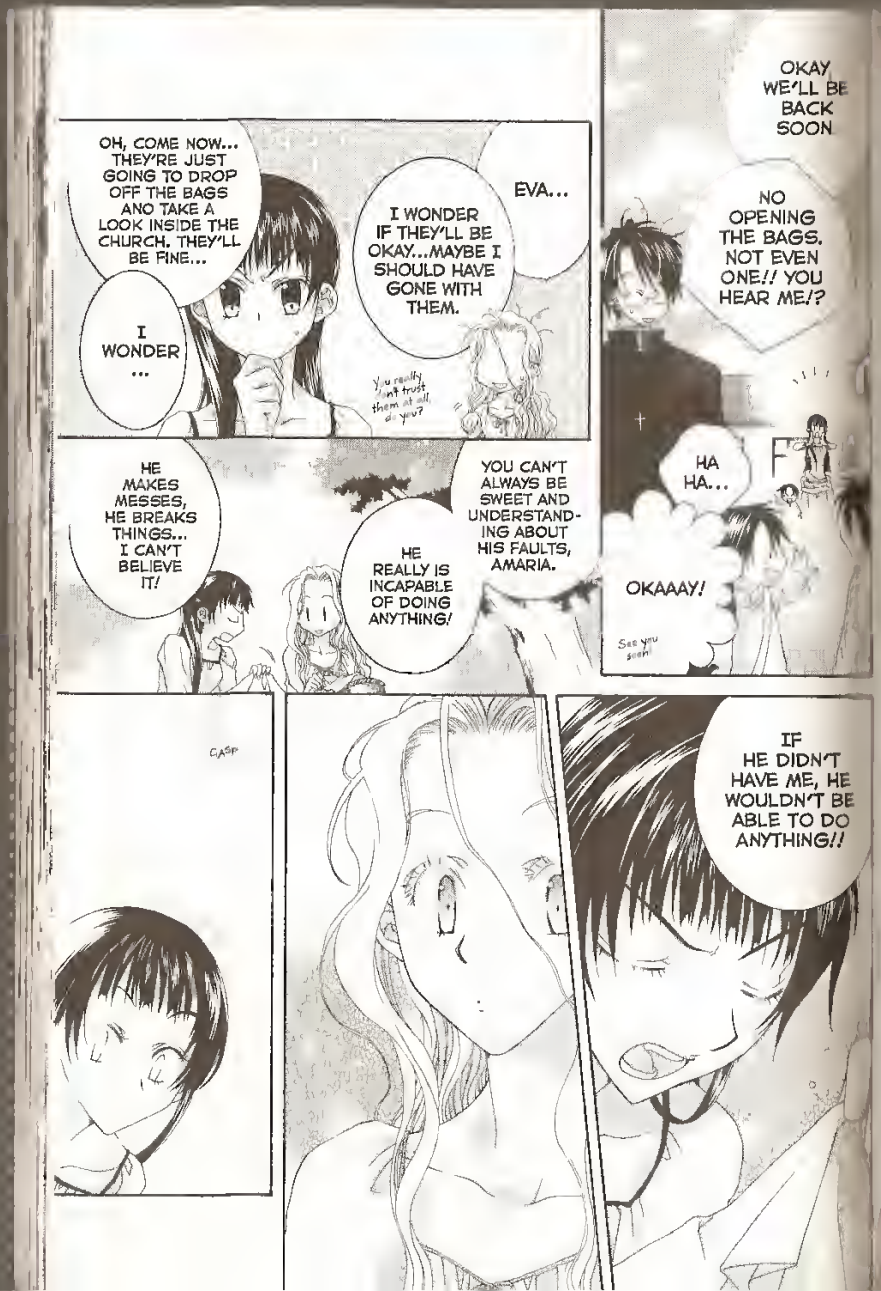


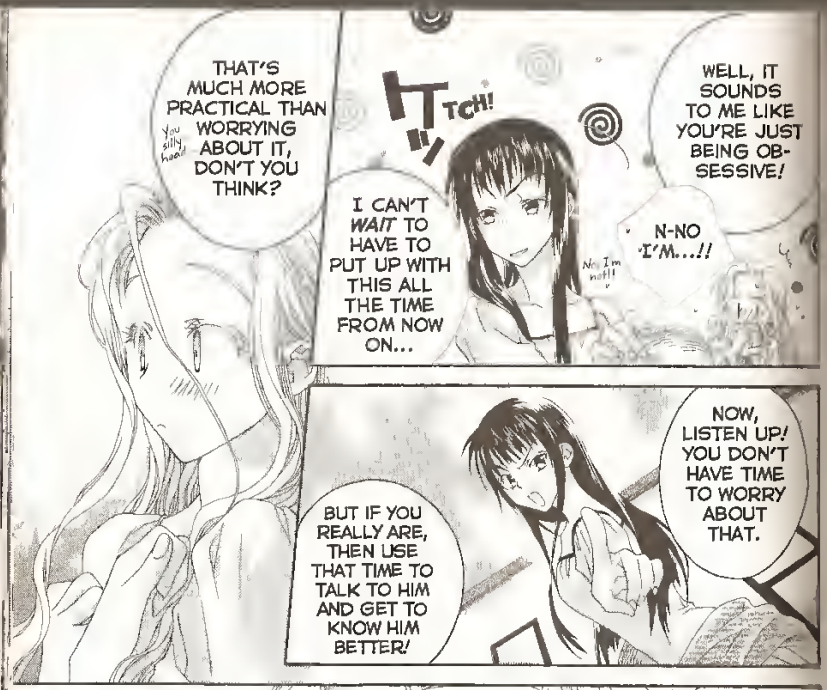
?
NO, NOTHING.
I DIDN'T RUN INTO ANYBODY.

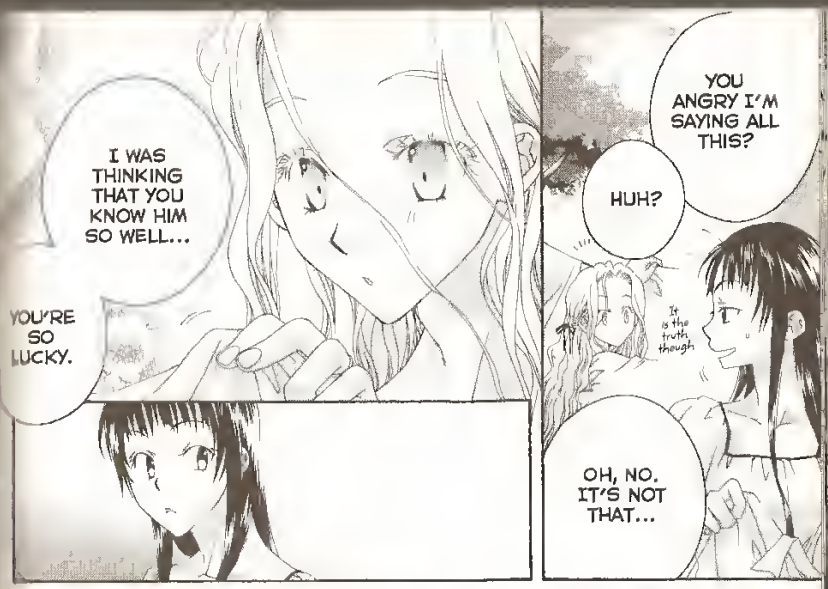

THIS MORNING... NO, YESTERDAY...BEFORE YOU CAME HERE...
...DID ANYTHING STRANGE HAPPEN? LIKE, DID YOU MEET SOMEONE?


OH, NO IT'S...
IT'S NOTHING.
...WHY?
Flowers!

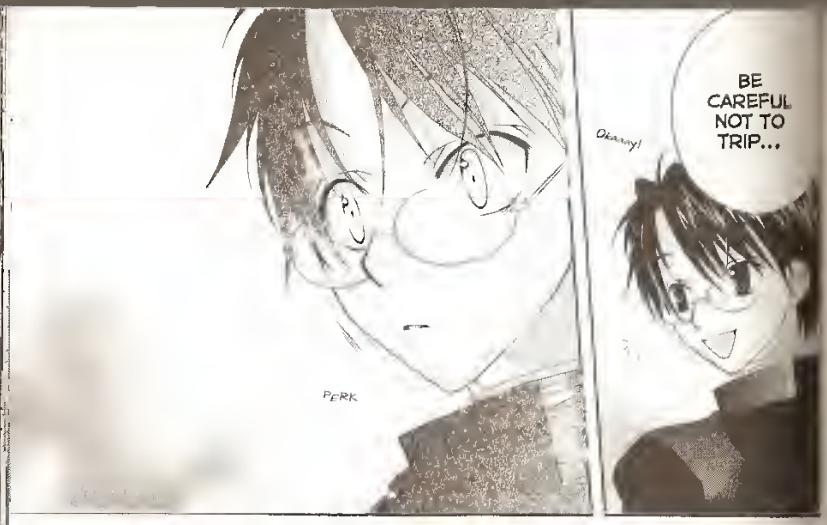

YEAH?
YOU'RE SO WEIRD, SENSEI.

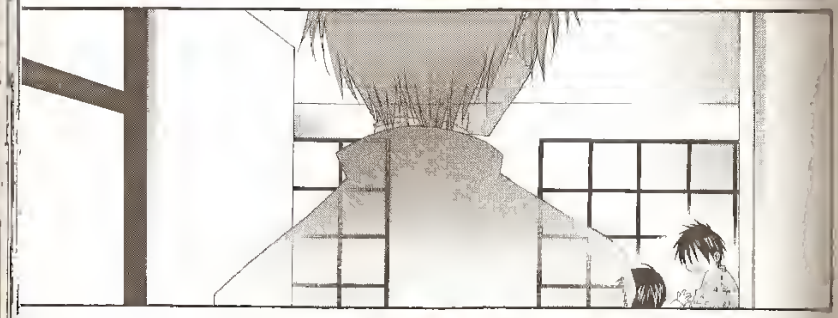

OH, COME NOW... THEY'RE JUST GOING TO DROP OFF THE BAGS AND TAKE A LOOK INSIDE THE CHURCH. THEY'LL BE FINE...
I WONDER...
I WONDER IF THEY'LL BE OKAY...MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE GONE WITH THEM.
EVA...
You really don't trust them at all, do you?
HE MAKES MESSES, HE BREAKS THINGS... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
HE REALLY IS INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING!
YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BE SWEET AND UNDERSTANDING ABOUT HIS FAULTS, AMARIA.
OKAY, WE'LL BE BACK SOON
NO OPENING THE BAGS. NOT EVEN ONE!! YOU HEAR ME!?
HA HA...
OKAAAY!
See you soon!
GASP
IF HE DIDN'T HAVE ME, HE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING!!
THERE.
WE'VE PACKED EVERYTHING UP.
SENSEI, WOULD YOU TAKE CARE OF THESE FOR ME?

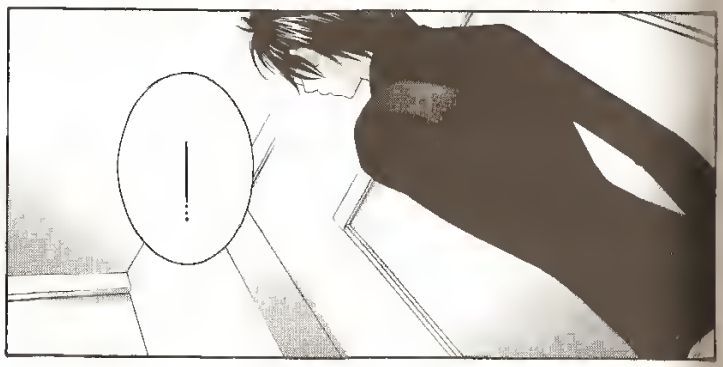

THAT'S MUCH MORE PRACTICAL THAN WORRYING ABOUT IT, DON'T YOU THINK?
You silly head!
Tch!
I CAN'T WAIT TO HAVE TO PUT UP WITH THIS ALL THE TIME FROM NOW ON...
WELL, IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE YOU'RE JUST BEING OBSESSIVE!
N-NO I'M...!!
No, I'm not!!
BUT IF YOU REALLY ARE, THEN USE THAT TIME TO TALK TO HIM AND GET TO KNOW HIM BETTER!
NOW, LISTEN UP! YOU DON'T HAVE TIME TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
THANKS, EVA.
.....
...YEAH... YOU'RE RIGHT...
FREEZE
.....
NOW, I WONDER ABOUT THAT RING...


I WAS THINKING THAT YOU KNOW HIM SO WELL...
YOU'RE SO LUCKY.
YOU ANGRY I'M SAYING ALL THIS?
HUH?
It is the truth, though.
OH, NO. IT'S NOT THAT...

I GUESS IT'S ONLY NATURAL.
I MEAN, UNLIKE YOU, I'M NOT WITH HIM EVERY SINGLE DAY.
WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE CHILDHOOD, BUT...
...I DON'T KNOW HIM THAT WELL, AT ALL?
DO YOU THINK MAYBE...
AMA-


BE CAREFUL NOT TO TRIP...
Okaaay!
PERK

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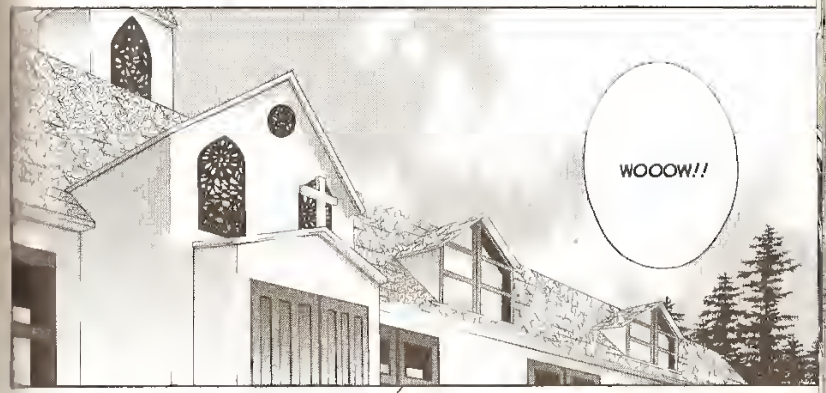
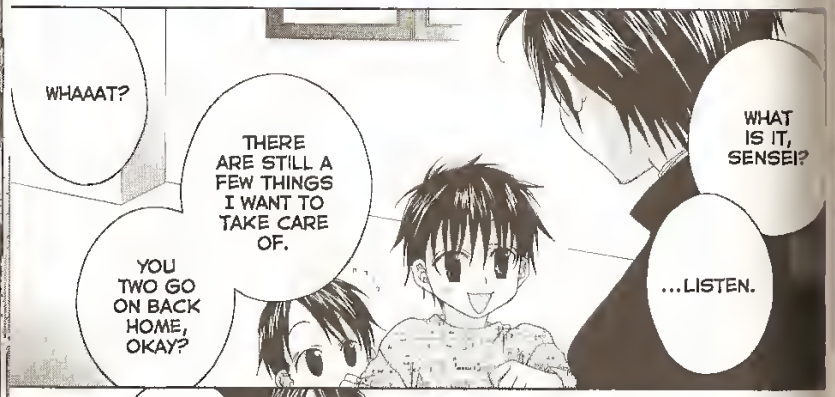

WOOOW!!

WE WANT TO SHOW YOU OUR ROOMS!
THIS WAY! COME ON!
HURRY!
OKAY, OKAY...
COME ON, NO RUNNING.
.....
THERE'S A GOOD FEELING ABOUT THIS PLACE...
SENSEI, LET'S GO INSIDE!
AMAZING.
IT'S ALMOST DONE!
THE CARPENTER SAID HE'LL BE TAKING A BREAK UNTIL THE FESTIVAL.
WE ALREADY PICKED OUT OUR ROOMS.
Eh heh heh!


WHAAAT?
THERE ARE STILL A FEW THINGS I WANT TO TAKE CARE OF.
YOU TWO GO ON BACK HOME, OKAY?
WHAT IS IT, SENSEI?
...LISTEN.

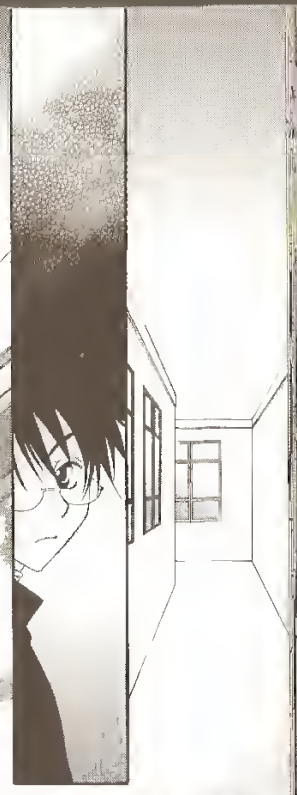
Y... YOU TWO KNOW THE WAY BACK HOME, RIGHT?
It's just one path
YEAH...

Yeah!
ME TOO! I'LL HELP TOO!!
I'LL HELP YOU.
BUT, SENSEI, IT'LL BE HARD FOR YOU TO CLEAN BY YOURSELF.

I WANNA HELP SEN-SEI, TOO!!
NO! I WANNA HELP!!
WHAAAT? WE DON'T NEED YOU, SHANI. YOU'LL JUST GET IN THE WAY.

BUT SISTER'LL BE UPSET.
SHE TOLD US ALL TO COME RIGHT BACK.
YEAH...
IT...IT'LL BE OKAY. I PROMISE.
I HAVE SO MANY BOOKS THAT IF I DON'T PUT THEM AWAY NOW, IT'LL BE HARDER TO DO IT LATER.

.....



...ATTILA.
SHANI! COME HERE.

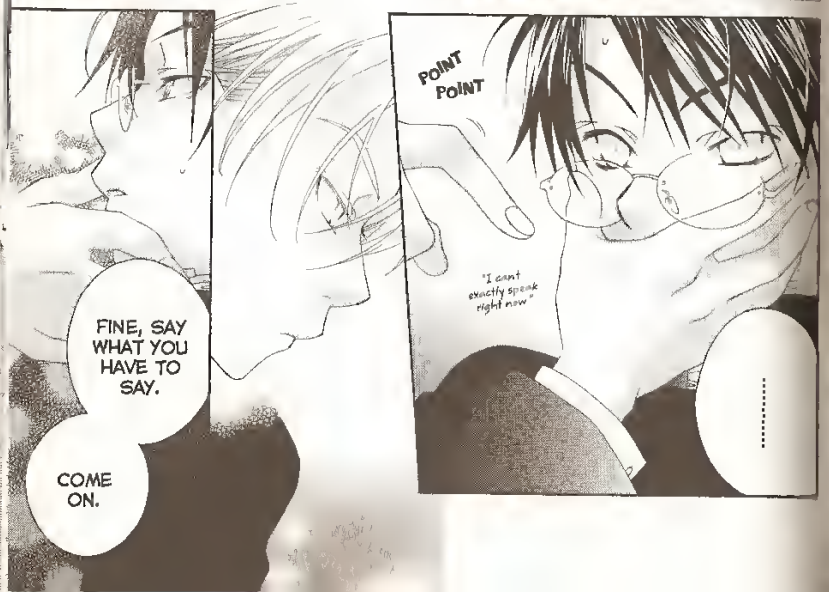
SHIKIMI...
... FARKASH? WHAT A STRANGE NAME.
AND, LET ME THINK... YOU'RE 25 YEARS OLD THIS YEAR, RIGHT?
MY, YOU LOOK FAR YOUNGER THAN THAT.
TMP
IT MUST BE TOUGH WITH YOUR LOOKS.
But you get hit on a lot
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY SIDE?
I THOUGHT IT'D BE FASTER TO START AT THE BOTTOM OF THE LIST, BUT...

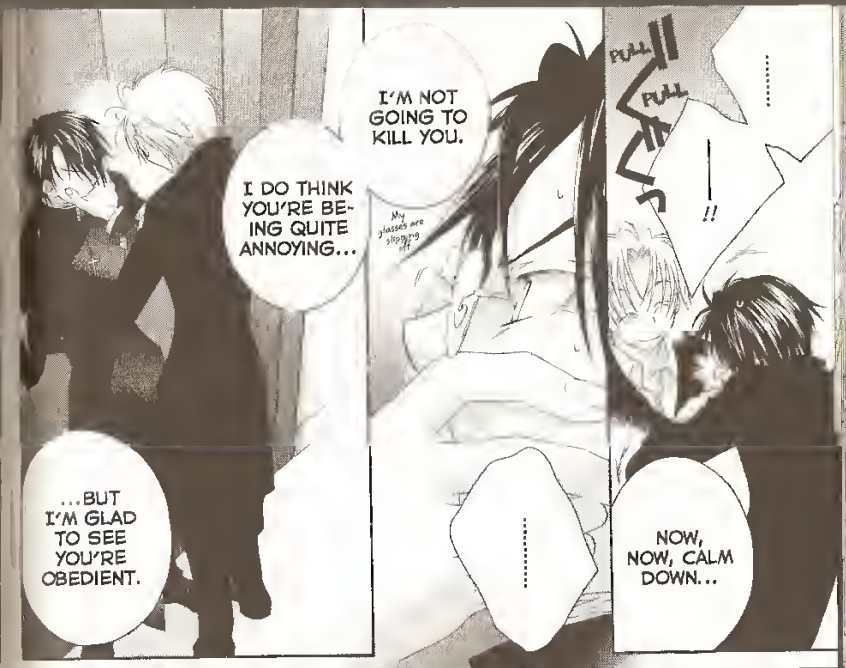
I'm not annoying!!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO BROKE A PLATE, ATTILA!!
SHEESH, YOU'RE ANNOYING!!
SHUT
COME BACK HOME SOON, SENSEI!
...YEP.
I'M SORRY... TAKE CARE.
THANK YOU.
I'LL BE FINE. I NEED YOU TWO TO TELL SISTER WHERE I AM, OKAY?
...OKAY.

.....!
...RESURRECTED.
.....
THAT'S QUITE A DANGER-OUS THING TO WALK AROUND WITH.
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED. YOU *ARE* A DE-MON SLAYER.

I SHOULD REVISE IT A LITTLE.
MY GUT INSTINCT IS USUALLY RIGHT.
A... HUMAN!?
HE'S A...
INDEED. THOSE OF MY FORM ARE RATHER RARE.
A HA HA. ARE YOU SURPRISED?
NO...
YOU'RE NOT MISTAKEN. AS YOU'VE GUESSED, I'M A GENUINE...
HE'S...

YOU SEEM A TAD TOO COMPLACENT...
WHAT ARE YOU SCHEMING?
CLANG


POINT
POINT
"I can't exactly speak right now"
FINE, SAY WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY.
COME ON.


I'M NOT GOING TO KILL YOU.
I DO THINK YOU'RE BEING QUITE ANNOYING...
My glasses are slipping off
...BUT I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU'RE OBEDIENT.
PULL
PULL
!!
NOW, NOW, CALM DOWN...

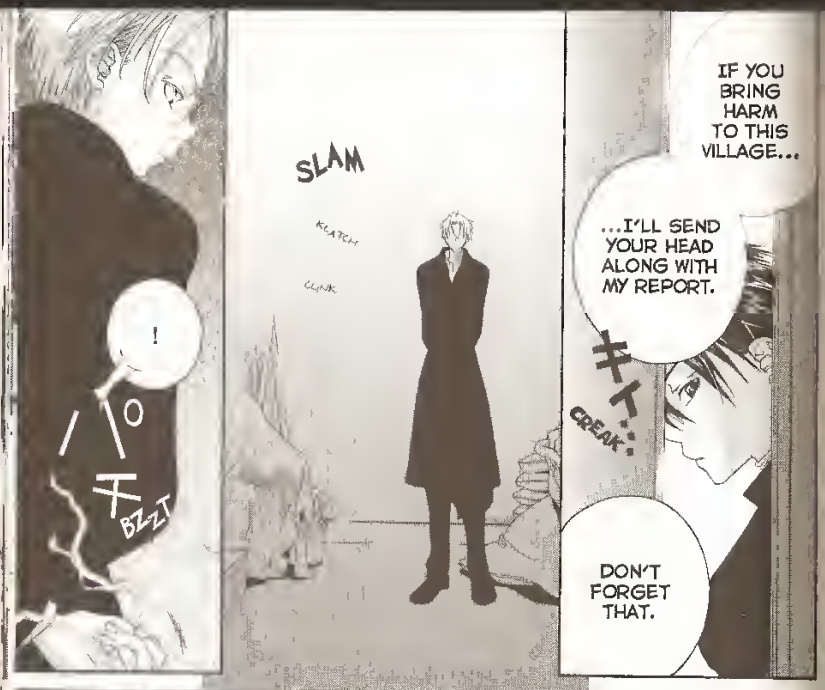
YOU SEE THE DIFFERENCE IN OUR STRENGTH NOW, YES? THERE'S NO POINT IN RESISTING.
AT YOUR AGE, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH INTO DEATH.
RIGHT?

THERE IS NO SPEECH NOR LANGUAGE...
...WHERE THEIR VOICE IS NOT HEARD.
!!
FREEZE
THE HEAVENS DECLARE THE GLORY OF GOD: AND THE FIRMAMENT SHEWETH HIS HANDIWORK.
DAY UNTO DAY UTTERETH SPEECH, AND NIGHT UNTO NIGHT SHEWETH KNOWLEDGE.
SQUEEZE
THEIR LINE IS GONE OUT THROUGH ALL THE EARTH, AND THEIR WORDS TO THE END OF THE WORLD.
!!!
BZZT
...HEY.
...WHAT?
I can't hear you
...REALLY...
...ARE VERY KIND.
YOU...
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO SAY.
DEMON-SAN.
THE THING ABOUT ME...
WHIP
...IS THAT I FIGHT WITH MY WORDS AND MY VOICE.
EARLIER, YOU SAID IT'S RARE TO FIND OTHERS LIKE YOU, BUT...
IT SEEMS MY VOICE IS POTENT AGAINST YOU. BIBLICAL VERSE IS MOST EFFECTIVE.
SINCE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST, I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T SEE IT COMING.
...JUST LIKE YOU, I'M ALSO A HERETIC.
ひた
TOUCH

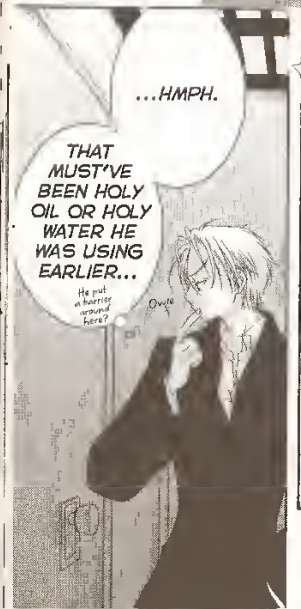
K-KLICK
AFTER YOU.
...THANKS.
How polite
THE BASEMENT...
A STOREROOM?
...YOU...
BZZZT
IT SEEMS YOU WERE...
...NOT VERY LUCKY.
GASP!
SHOULD CLERGY REALLY BE ALLOWED TO LIE?
Ow...
Ow...
WHAT WAS ALL THAT ABOUT "IT BEING FASTER TO COUNT FROM THE BOTTOM"?
YOU TRICKED ME...
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE SAYING "THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS."

I DON'T NEED YOUR ADVICE.
I THOUGHT DEMON SLAYERS WERE ALL A BUNCH OF MUSCLEHEADS.
Tch
YOU SEEM FAIRLY SMART, BUT...
JUST WHAT ARE YOU? YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT HUMAN, BUT YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE ANYTHING ELSE...
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE? YOU'LL NEVER BE PROMOTED OUT HERE.
IT'S ALWAYS A GOOD IDEA TO GET TO KNOW YOUR ENEMY... AND I'M FAIRLY GOOD AT SNEAKING AROUND.
It wasn't too hard to steal the roster
I AM A HUMAN.
JUST A DEAD ONE.
THAT'S NOT SOMETHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT. INSIDE, PLEASE.
IT'S NICE OF YOU TO GIVE ME A TOUR, BUT WHY BRING ME DOWN HERE INSTEAD OF JUST KILLING ME?
SO WHAT'RE YOU GOING TO DO NOW?

YOU ARE...
...LUCKY.
I'M TIRED. OTHERWISE I'D BE ABLE TO BREAK OUT OF HERE.
NOT TO MENTION YOU BEING IN CHARGE.
THERE ARE A NUMBER OF REASONS FOR IT, BUT...
...I'M NOT AT MY BEST RIGHT NOW.
I LIKE THIS VILLAGE, YOU KNOW? IF IT WERE ANY OTHER PLACE, I WOULDN'T WARN YOU.
SO LISTEN UP.
BUT YOU'RE LUCKY.
I AM NOT CAPABLE BY MYSELF OF UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU ARE.
SO I WILL REPORT YOU TO THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND ASK WHAT SHOULD BE DONE. UNTIL THEN, YOU WILL REMAIN HERE.
I KNOW WHY.
YOU'RE HESITATING BECAUSE I LOOK HUMAN.
IF YOU WANT TO KNOW MORE, I'D BE HAPPY TO—
NO, THANK YOU.
I GUESS IT'S MY FAULT FOR NOT REPRESSING MY AURA.
HOW CRUEL. SO YOUR COMPASSION IS RESERVED ONLY FOR HUMANS, HUH?
EVEN IF YOU ATTEMPT TO CALL FOR HELP, I DOUBT ANYONE WILL HEAR.
USE THIS TIME TO CONSIDER YOUR ERROR.
ALLOWING ME TO SENSE YOU WAS QUITE CARELESS.
INDEED IT IS. IF YOU HAD, I WOULD NEVER HAVE KNOWN.


!
SLAM
KLATCH
CLUNK
BZZT

IF YOU BRING HARM TO THIS VILLAGE...
...I'LL SEND YOUR HEAD ALONG WITH MY REPORT.
CREAK...
DON'T FORGET THAT.

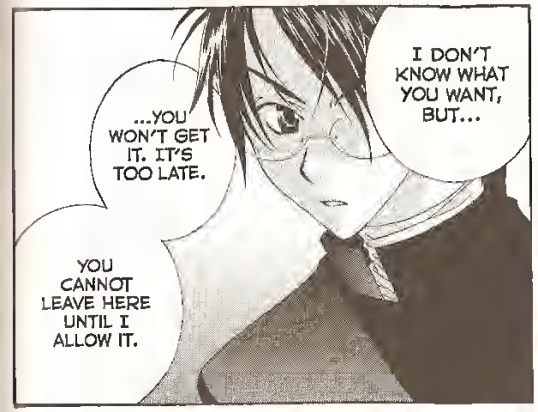

...HMPH.
THAT MUST'VE BEEN HOLY OIL OR HOLY WATER HE WAS USING EARLIER...
He put a barrier around here?
Owie

BZZT

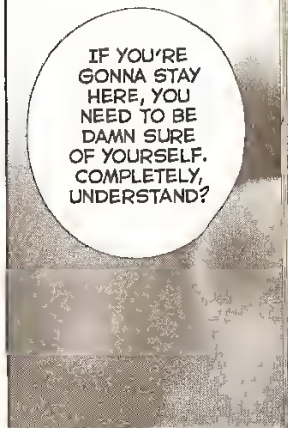
WELL, WELL.
He released me
...AND THE DOOR'S LOCKED.
I'VE GOT ONE WINDOW...

YOU SAID I WAS KIND, BUT...
...I'M LIKE YOU. I'M JUST POLITE.

KINDNESS IS NOTHING BUT A CRUTCH.
YOU'RE BETTER OFF JUST LOOKING OUT FOR YOURSELF.

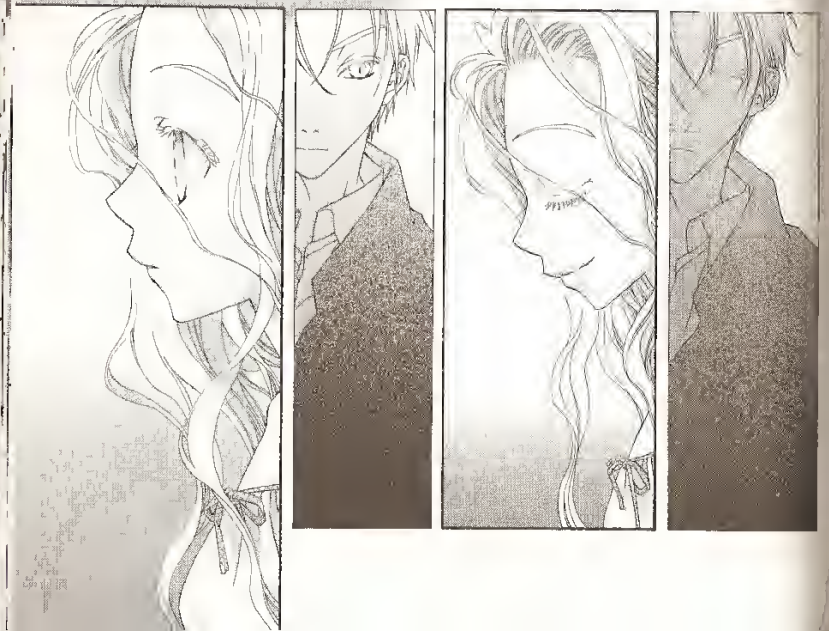

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU WANT, BUT...
...YOU WON'T GET IT. IT'S TOO LATE.
YOU CANNOT LEAVE HERE UNTIL I ALLOW IT.

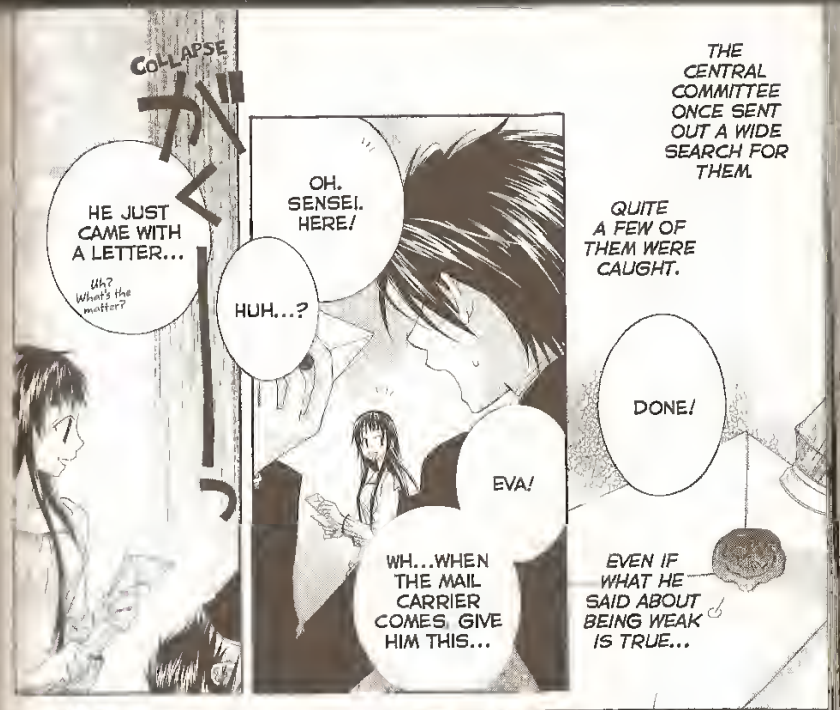
GET OUT OF HERE. AS SOON AS YOU CAN.
SOMETHING VERY BAD IS HEADED THIS WAY.

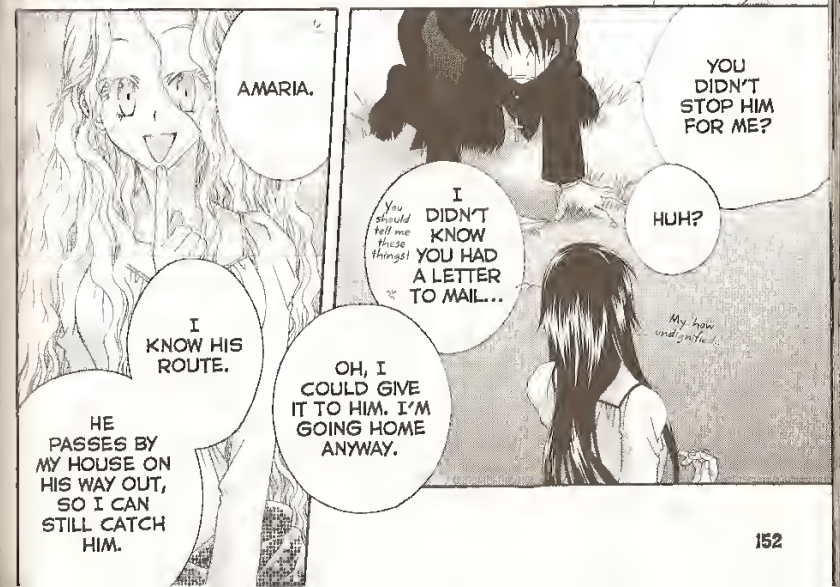

IF YOU'RE GONNA STAY HERE, YOU NEED TO BE DAMN SURE OF YOURSELF. COMPLETELY, UNDERSTAND?

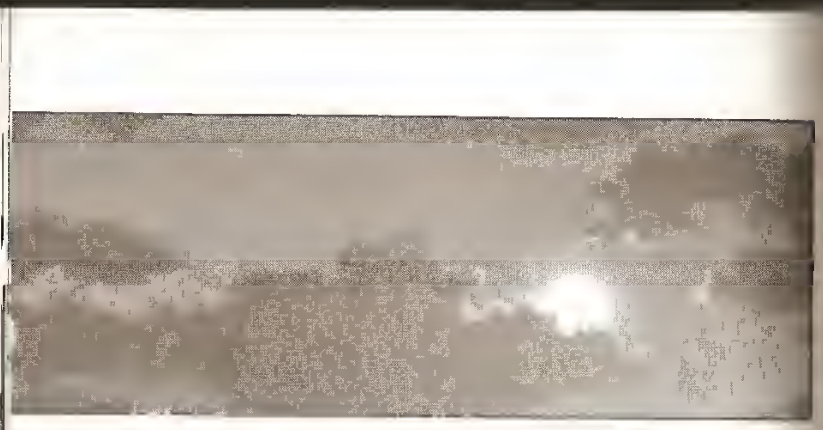
OKAY... THANKS!
SENSEI?
KATCH
THANKS FOR WHAT? HEY!
COLLEC TIDN? YOU MEAN THE MAIL?
LET ME THINK...
OH, THAT IS TDDAY...THEY SHOULD BE HERE SDON.
WHY OIO YOU SENO THE KIDS BACK HOME ALONE?
OH... EVA.
DION'T YDU PROMISE YDU WDULON'T OD ANYTHING THERE?
I'M SDRRY, I JUST... HAVE THEY MAOE THE COLLECTION ROUNOS YET?
Now Eva
SHEESH...
WHY'S HE IN SUCH A HURRY?
A "BLONOE OEMDN."
IT'S NDT UNHEARO DF...
THDUGH I THINK THE DNLY DCCUR- RENCES HAVE BEEN IN THE WEST.
WHAT PERFECT TIMING. THE MAIL CDMES TODAY.
They can take my letter
I NEEO TD ASK HDW TD PRDCEED IMMEDI- ATELY...
I GUESS I MESSED UP AGAIN...
Aah
I'M HUNGRY..
HEH, A LITTLE MORE GREEDY.
I HAD A CHANCE TD GET THROUGH TD HIM...
GUESS THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DD...
TELLING HIM WHAT I AM WAS A BAD IDEA.
IF ONLY HE WERE A LITTLE MORE ...
HE'LL NEVER LISTEN TD WHAT A DEMDN HAS TD SAY...
SENSEI?
I CAN'T LEAVE THAT THING IN THE VILLAGE WHEN I'M NOT AROUND...
RUSTLE
IF I MISS THE CARRIER, I'LL HAVE TO GO INTO TOWN MYSELF.
I CAN'T AFFORO TO DO THAT NOW...

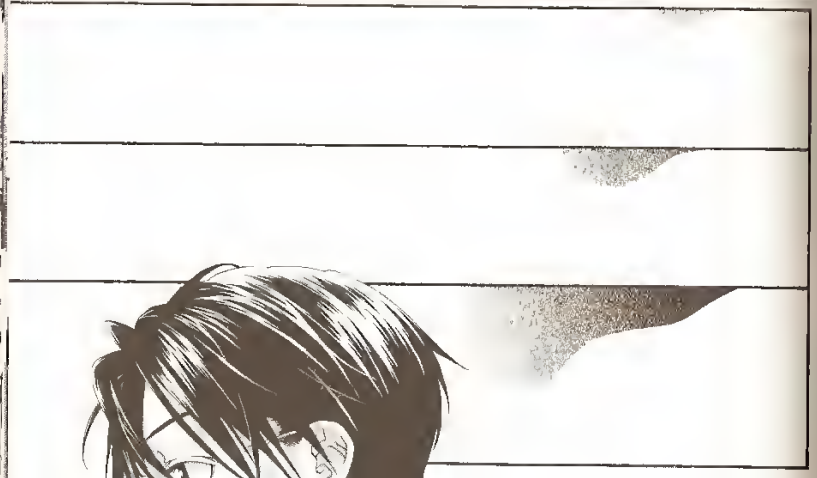
WELL THEN I'LL GO–
NO PROBLEM, NO PROBLEM!
IF I DON'T CATCH HIM I'LL COME GET YOU. BYE!

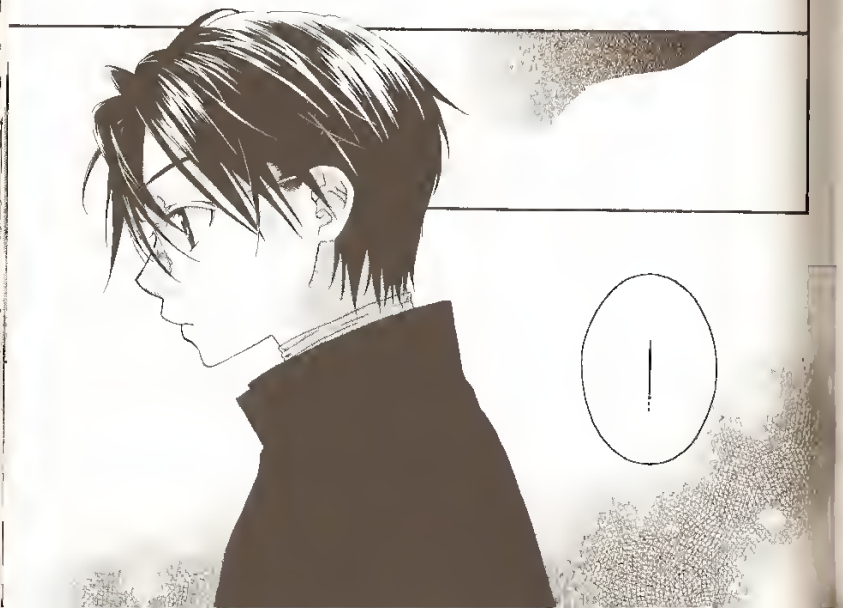


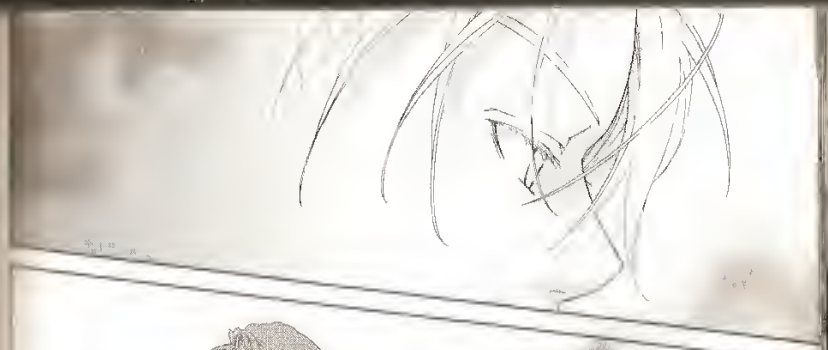

COLLAPSE
HE JUST CAME WITH A LETTER...
Uh? What's the matter?
OH. SENSEI. HERE!
HUH...?
EVA!
WH...WHEN THE MAIL CARRIER COMES, GIVE HIM THIS...
THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE ONCE SENT OUT A WIDE SEARCH FOR THEM.
QUITE A FEW OF THEM WERE CAUGHT.
DONE!
EVEN IF WHAT HE SAID ABOUT BEING WEAK IS TRUE...

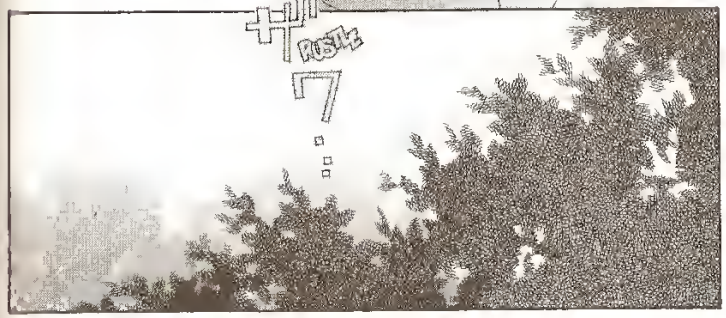

AMARIA.
I KNOW HIS ROUTE.
HE PASSES BY MY HOUSE ON HIS WAY OUT, SO I CAN STILL CATCH HIM.
OH, I COULD GIVE IT TO HIM. I'M GOING HOME ANYWAY.
You should tell me these things!
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD A LETTER TO MAIL...
YOU DIDN'T STOP HIM FOR ME?
HUH?
My how undignified.





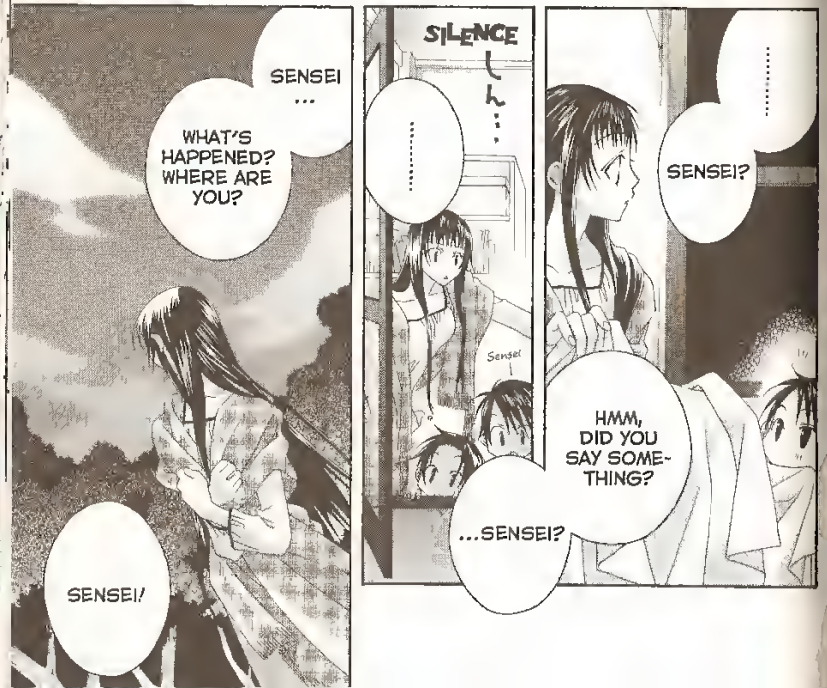


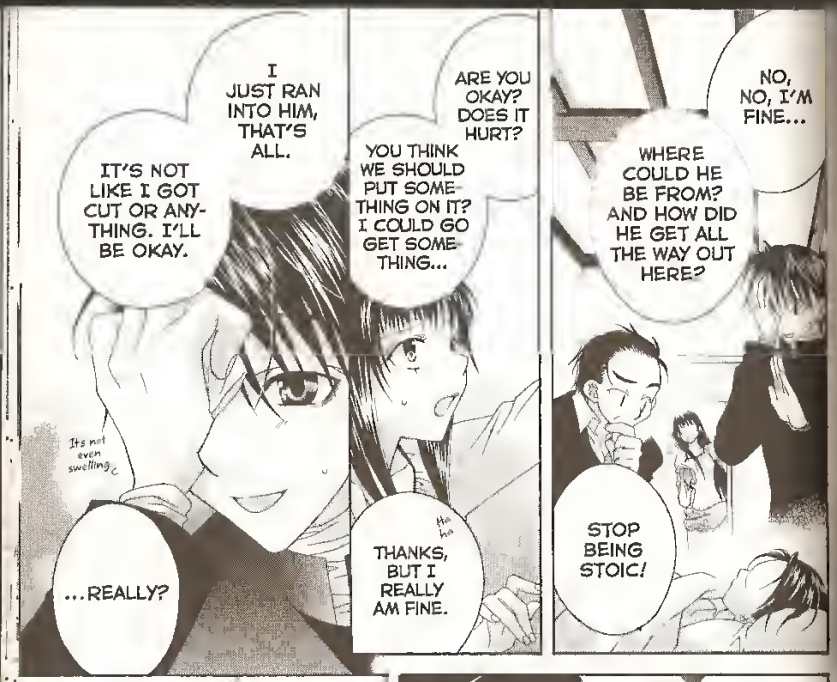


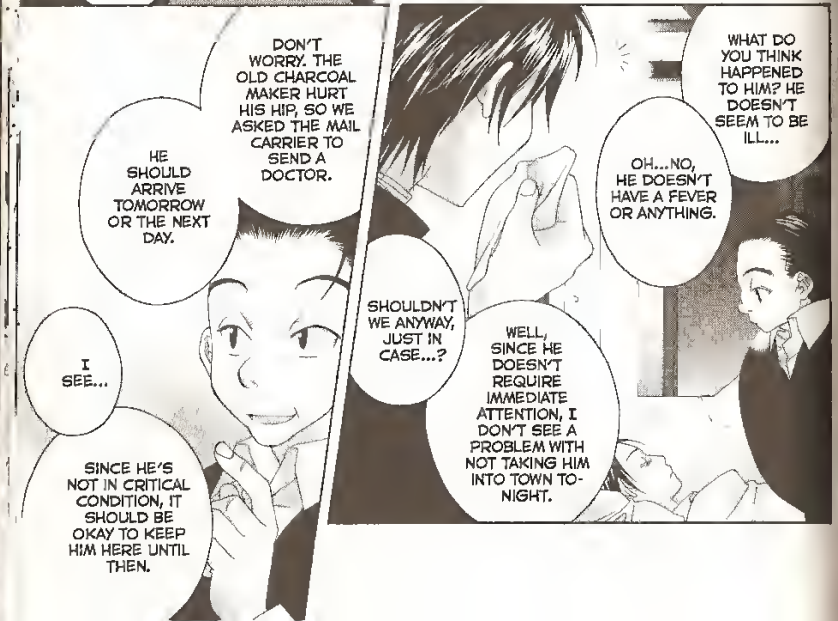

十川
Rosuke
7

.....
THE SUN SURE SET EARLY TODAY
It's already pitch black out
AMARIA NEVER CAME BACK...
I GUESS THAT MEANS SHE MADE IT. THANK GOODNESS.
I WONDER WHEN THE LETTER WILL REACH THEM...
TIE
SENSEI...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?
GASP
Y... YES, MA'AM! I'LL BE BACK!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO PACK ANYTHING! JUST GO DO YOUR PATROL ALREADY!!
THAT'S ENOUGH...
KLATCH

WITH THE NIGHTS THIS COLD...
...I'LL HAVE TO WATCH OUT FOR FROST SOON.
Hash
IT'S FREEZING...
BRRR
SWISS


SENSEI ...
WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHERE ARE YOU?
SENSEI!
SILENCE
しん...
.....
Sensei
...SENSEI?
.....
SENSEI?
HMM, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?


I JUST RAN INTO HIM, THAT'S ALL.
IT'S NOT LIKE I GOT CUT OR ANYTHING. I'LL BE OKAY.
It's not even swelling.
...REALLY?
ARE YOU OKAY? DOES IT HURT?
YOU THINK WE SHOULD PUT SOMETHING ON IT? I COULD GO GET SOMETHING...
Ha ha
THANKS, BUT I REALLY AM FINE.
NO, NO, I'M FINE...
WHERE COULD HE BE FROM? AND HOW DID HE GET ALL THE WAY OUT HERE?
STOP BEING STOIC!


DON'T WORRY. THE OLD CHARCOAL MAKER HURT HIS HIP, SO WE ASKED THE MAIL CARRIER TO SEND A DOCTOR.
HE SHOULD ARRIVE TOMORROW OR THE NEXT DAY.
I SEE...
SINCE HE'S NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION, IT SHOULD BE OKAY TO KEEP HIM HERE UNTIL THEN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED TO HIM? HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ILL...
OH...NO, HE DOESN'T HAVE A FEVER OR ANYTHING.
SHOULDN'T WE ANYWAY, JUST IN CASE...?
WELL, SINCE HE DOESN'T REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ATTENTION, I DON'T SEE A PROBLEM WITH NOT TAKING HIM INTO TOWN TONIGHT.

SENSEI!?
SEN...
OH, HOW HORRIBLE... POOR SENSEI!

...NO, YOU KEEP IT.
HE'LL BE JUST FINE, REAL SOON.
HMM...
WHEN HE IS, CAN WE PLAY WITH HIM?
REALLY?
HEY, SEN-SEI?
IS THE MAN OKAY? IS HE HURT?
SHOULD I LET HIM HAVE MY BEAR FOR A LITTLE?
TRY TO STAY AWAY FROM MY ROOM FOR NOW.
IF THERE'S SOMETHING YOU NEED, ASK ME OR SISTER EVA FIRST... OKAY?
OKAAAY!
OKAY!
MAYBE WHEN HE'S ALL BETTER...
...YOU CAN ASK HIM.
WELL, I DON'T KNOW YET...
HEY, SENSEI, THAT SICK MAN YOU TOOK IN...
IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
...SO NO ONE IS ALLOWED IN THERE. EVERYBODY UNDER-STAND?
...WE'LL HAVE A GUEST STAYING IN SENSEI'S ROOM...
.....
SO, THAT MEANS...
IF HE STARTS TO SHOW ANY SIGN OF ILLNESS, THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER.
STILL, THE SENSEI IS MORE THAN CAPABLE, SO I'M NOT WORRIED.
WOW!! わぁ
Guests are a rare thing for country kids
I SAID QUIET DOWN!!
YAAAY! A GUEST!!
QUIET! HE'S A VERY SICK MAN!!
AH! WHOA NOW...!
A... ANYWAY...
You were even louder than us Sister
You wouldn't have heard me if I didn't yell!
.....
キガ... CLAMP.

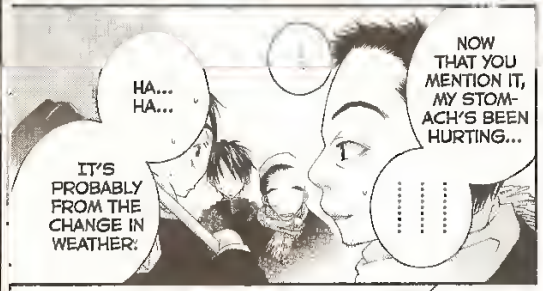
OH, DEAR...A COLD?
I GUESS IT WAS A BIT CHILLY OUT TODAY...
SHANI?
AH-CHOO!
I SWEAR, WHEN ONE GETS IT, THEY ALL DO...
I THINK WE SHOULD PUT THEM ALL TO BED JUST TO BE SAFE.
I'LL GET THE BEDS READY BEFORE I SIT IN WITH OUR GUEST.
HMM...
NO, HIS TEMPERATURE SEEMS NORMAL.
IS HE OKAY? HE DOESN'T HAVE A FEVER, DOES HE?
COME ON, PUT IT ON...
AH-CHOO!
I TOLD YOU TO PUT AN EXTRA LAYER ON, SEE?
AAAW...
But I was hot
SNIFFLE
OH, REALLY?
Thank you
CATCH
HERE, GIVE HIM THIS.
IT'S GOOD FOR THE BODY!
CHATTER
NO, DUMMY, THAT WAS NINA'S LITTLE GIRL.
HUH? I HEARD IT WAS THE SENSEI WHO WAS SICK...
HUH? BUT I HEARD THE SAME ABOUT RAC'S WIFE...
YOU HAVE ENOUGH BLANKETS? I CAN LEND YOU SOME.
SENSEI! IS IT TRUE YOU ADOPTED A PATIENT?
Who is it?
UH...
AH...YES, I'M SURE HE WILL BE.
THE SLEEPING ARRANGEMENTS MUST'VE BEEN TOUGH TO FIGURE OUT.
WELL, THAT'S...
SENSEI! I HEARD YOU TOOK IN A SICK PERSON.
Today's my second son's birthday
My little girl is home sick, right now
Yeah, your home is always...

...NO.
I DID SOME RESEARCH, AND...
...IT'S NOT ANYTHING WE NEED TO WORRY ABOUT. I'M NOT A DOCTOR, OF COURSE... BUT...
EVA?
SENSEI... HE'LL BE OKAY, RIGHT?
HE DOESN'T HAVE SOME... TERRIBLE DISEASE? SOMETHING CONTAGIOUS...?
.....
...OKAY...
...I ALWAYS WASH MY HANDS WHEN I COME OUT.
THE KIDS WON'T CATCH ANYTHING.
.....
?

OH, NO YOU DON'T, SENSEI! YOU JUST GET SOME REST.
HUH?
YOU WERE UP ALL NIGHT LOOKING AFTER THAT MAN, SO I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM TODAY.
OH...NO, IT'S FINE. HE SLEPT ALL NIGHT, SO IT WASN'T THAT HARD...
WHAT? I'M SURE YOU DIDN'T SLEEP A WINK LAST NIGHT!
NO, I TOOK A NAP.
I'M NEVER ANY HELP TO YOU, EVA. JUST LET ME DO THIS.
REALLY, THANKS FOR DOING SO MUCH.
FROM NOW ON I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE MORE...
I... I'M...
...NOT REALLY...
IT'S JUST MORE TIME TO READ, SO I DON'T MIND.
YOU DO ENOUGH, TAKING CARE OF THE KIDS AND CHORES BY YOURSELF...
LIKE I SAID, I'LL GET THE KIDS READY FOR BED.
TUG
...SENSEI!
SE-

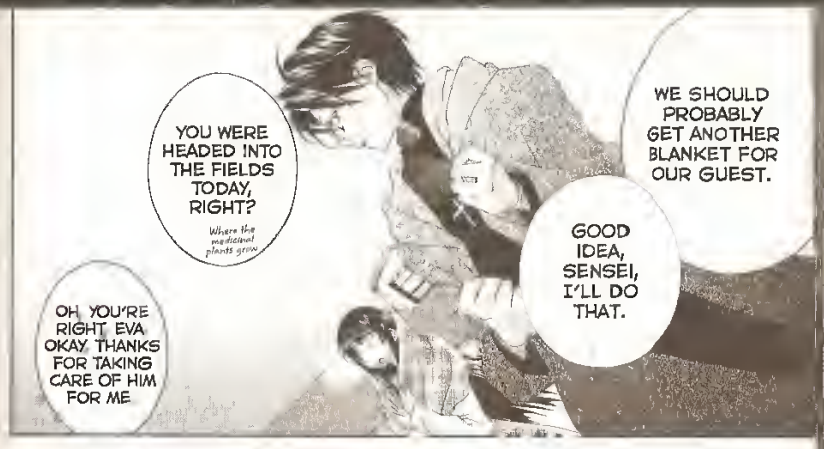
WHOA...
cough
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE WARM THIS YEAR. I GUESS I WAS WRONG.
Haah
WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THE KIDS DON'T CATCH COLDS.
YEAH.
IT'S FREEZING!!
It's all white
IT SURE GOT COLD FAST. THERE'S ALREADY FROST...
IT'S OOO THAT HE HASN'T AWAKENED, YET.
BUT HE DID WALK HERE, DIDN'T HE?
HIS COMPLEXION IS NORMAL...
PERHAPS IT'S SOMETHING YOU CAN'T SEE FROM THE OUTSIDE.
HIS TEMPERATURE...
...HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL. NOT TOO HIGH ANO NOT TOO LOW...
TMP
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S AWAKE YET...
I'm coming in...
KLATCH
WHAT SHOULO I OO? PERHAPS I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM INTO THE VILLAGE...
IF IT TURNS OUT TO BE AN ILLNESS HE CAN'T TREAT, THEN...
THE OOCTOR DIDN'T COME TOOAY.. I ASSUME HE'LL ARRIVE TOMORROW.
HIS FAMILY MUST BE WORRIEO.
POOR GUY...

HI, NEMETH, SZEGEDI.
PERFECT TIMING. I WAS GOING TO GO SEE YOU.
MORNING.
SENSEI, COULD YOU MAKE ME SOMETHING TO BRING DOWN A FEVER?
GOOD MORNING.
HUH?


NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, MY STOMACH'S BEEN HURTING...
HA... HA...
IT'S PROBABLY FROM THE CHANGE IN WEATHER.

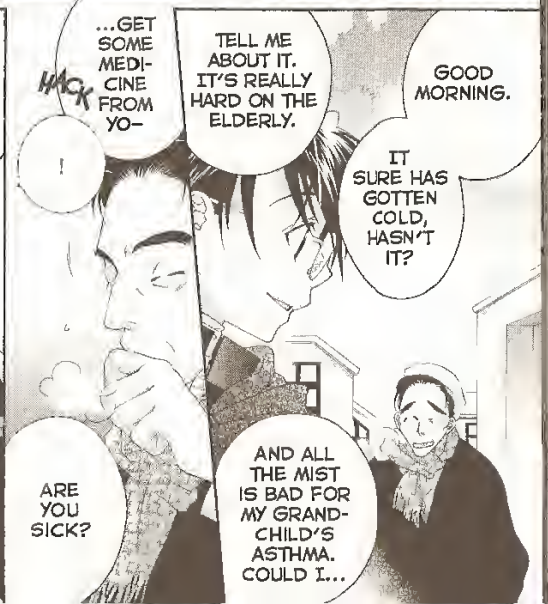
RIGHT...OH WELL, THE DOCTOR'S SUPPOSED TO COME TODAY.
YOU SHOULD ASK HIM TO HAVE A LOOK AT YOU...
GOOD IDEA... I'LL TRY TO CATCH HIM.
WHAT IS THIS?

YOU TOO, NEMETH-SAN?
HUH? WELL, MY KAMI-SAN HAS A SWOLLEN THROAT AND A FEVER.
She usually dies around this time of the year.
I ALSO HEARD THAT SOMEONE AT NINA'S PLACE COLLAPSED...
WHY? JONAH'S HOUSE GOT THE SAME PROBLEM?

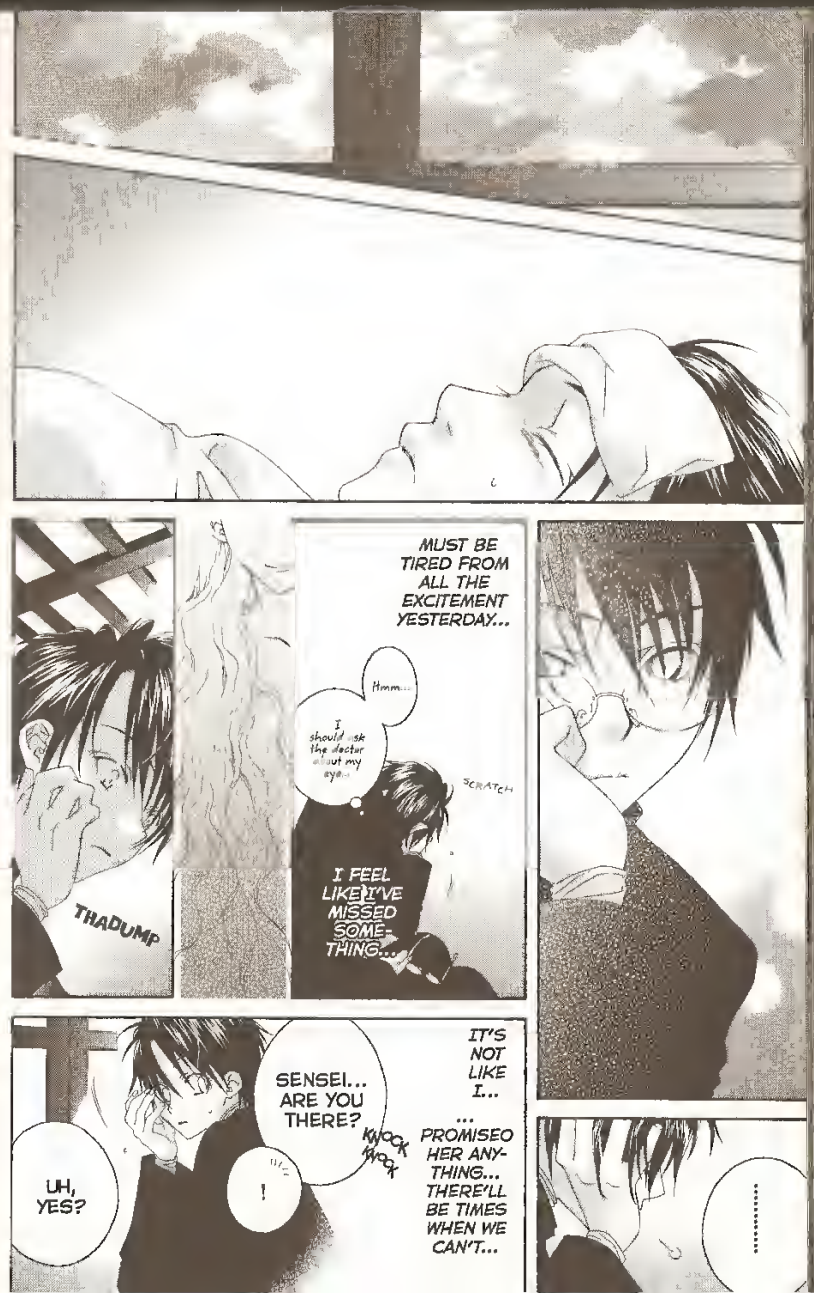

YOU WERE HEADED INTO THE FIELDS TODAY, RIGHT?
Where the medicinal plants grow.
WE SHOULD PROBABLY GET ANOTHER BLANKET FOR OUR GUEST.
GOOD IDEA, SENSEI, I'LL DO THAT.
OH, YOU'RE RIGHT, EVA. OKAY. THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF HIM FOR ME.

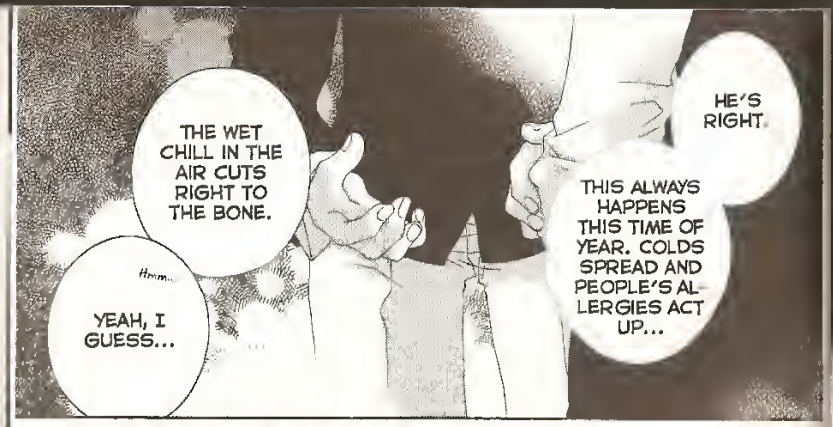
...OH, SENSEI.
YOU'RE HERE EARLY.

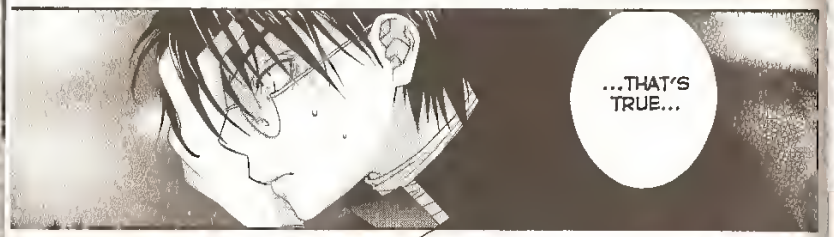
THAT MUST BE TOUGH.
JUST A TOUCH OF BRONCHITIS.
IT'S ONLY BAD WHEN IT GETS COLD.
SENSEI.
AND JONAH, TOO. YOU'RE BOTH OUT EARLY.

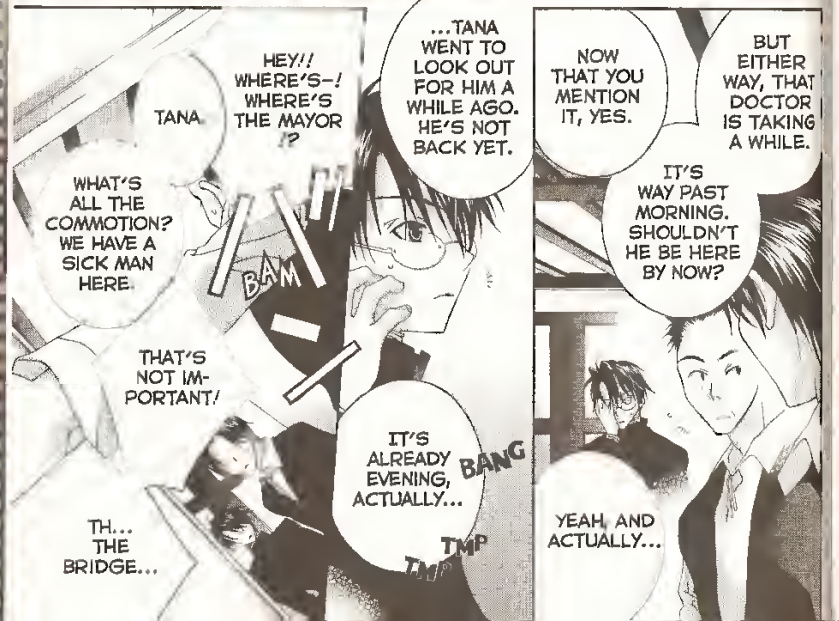

...GET SOME MEDICINE FROM YO-
CRACK
!
TELL ME ABOUT IT. IT'S REALLY HARD ON THE ELDERLY.
GOOD MORNING.
IT SURE HAS GOTTEN COLD, HASN'T IT?
ARE YOU SICK?
AND ALL THE MIST IS BAD FOR MY GRANDCHILD'S ASTHMA. COULD I...

HE'S STILL ASLEEP?
YES...I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM WAKE UP.
HE CAN'T GET BETTER IF HE CAN'T EVEN EAT...
OH, I JUST WANTED TO SEE HOW YOUR PATIENT'S DOING...
OH... I SEE. I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN.
I'M SORRY YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY. HE'S NOT AWAKE, YET.
OH.
THANK YOU, SENSEI.
Er, uh,
HELLO.
WHAT BRINGS THE MAYOR HERE?
The mayor has white hair.
I HEAR THE TOWN'S DOCTOR WILL ARRIVE TODAY.
THAT'S RIGHT. HE HAS A FEW PATIENTS TO CHECK ON, INCLUDING THIS ONE.
AH... WOULD YOU MIND SENDING HIM MY WAY WHEN HE'S DONE HERE?
.....
PERK
YOU TOO, MAYOR?
YES, IT'S MY WIFE...
AND THE CHILD ACROSS THE ROAD FROM US HAS BEEN SICK, AS WELL.


THADUMP
MUST BE TIRED FROM ALL THE EXCITEMENT YESTERDAY...
Hmm...
I should ask the doctor about my eye...
SCRATCH
I FEEL LIKE I'VE MISSED SOME-THING...
SENSEI... ARE YOU THERE?
KNOCK KNOCK
!
UH, YES?
IT'S NOT LIKE I...
...PROMISED HER ANY-THING... THERE'LL BE TIMES WHEN WE CAN'T...
.....


THE WET CHILL IN THE AIR CUTS RIGHT TO THE BONE.
HE'S RIGHT.
THIS ALWAYS HAPPENS THIS TIME OF YEAR. COLDS SPREAD AND PEOPLE'S ALLERGIES ACT UP...
Hmm...
YEAH, I GUESS...


...THAT'S TRUE...


TANA
HEY!! WHERE'S-! WHERE'S THE MAYOR!?
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMOTION? WE HAVE A SICK MAN HERE.
BAM
THAT'S NOT IMPORTANT!
TH... THE BRIDGE...
...TANA WENT TO LOOK OUT FOR HIM A WHILE AGO. HE'S NOT BACK YET.
IT'S ALREADY EVENING, ACTUALLY...
BANG
TMP
TMP
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, YES.
BUT EITHER WAY, THAT DOCTOR IS TAKING A WHILE.
IT'S WAY PAST MORNING. SHOULDN'T HE BE HERE BY NOW?
YEAH, AND ACTUALLY...

YEAH, SOMEONE IN THE HOUSE BEHIND MINE IS ILL.
HUH ...?
SZEGEDI SAID HE DIDN'T FEEL WELL AND LEFT WORK EARLY.
WE SHOULD REALLY THINK ABOUT THIS, HERE...
WHOA.
THIS COULD BE SOMETHING SERIOUS GOING AROUND...

N...NO. EVERYONE'S SYMPTOMS ARE DIFFERENT.
IF SOMETHING WERE SPREADING, EVERYONE WOULD HAVE THE SAME SYMPTOMS.

Afterword

Long time no see. Hello

Did everybody notice the tones I'd used?

I love Kagome Vegetable Lifestyle Mild Peach.

This series is already into its third volume. That's pretty fast for me! On the other hand, for a manga-ka, it's pretty slow. At least, that's what everyone tells me.

It makes this bowl of rice look like it won't taste good... see?

Trust me, the flavor isn't mild, it's crisp.

UGH!!

...and overall developing the simple pen like this, wouldn't get you to start hating the world, right?

Because I do (ha)

The bubble would pop, making ink fly everywhere

Eek!

Opening up a hole in my thumb from poking my pen into it...

try to work with the blood that got on the tip of it...

It was wicked cold but the sight of the red lanterns bobbing in the wind gusts and cloudy sky was very beautiful. I thought to myself, 'Wow (even though I'm missing work) I'm glad I came here.'

Next time I want to go to snow country

The stew wrap was delicious ♥

I also like Castella, Green tea, cheese, and pie are good too.

As always, now comes the part where I try to figure out what I should write about next.

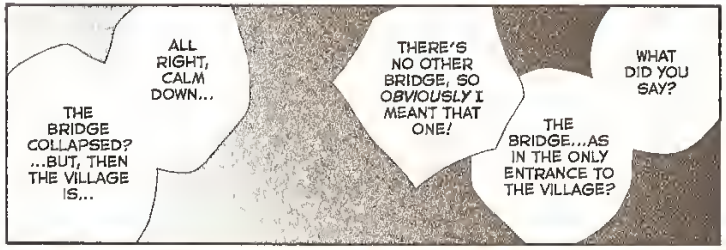
Now I'm going to mention something I've done recently, and that was going to Nagasaki for a lantern festival.

Special thanks ♥

All my editors
My manager -sama
And my helper
Esaki she's
170cm tall
And to all you
who read this

Well, now to continue the story I'll do my best.

See you!


ALL RIGHT, CALM DOWN...
THE BRIDGE COLLAPSED? ...BUT, THEN THE VILLAGE IS...
THERE'S NO OTHER BRIDGE, SO *OBVIOUSLY* I MEANT THAT ONE!
THE BRIDGE...AS IN THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 3 ✝

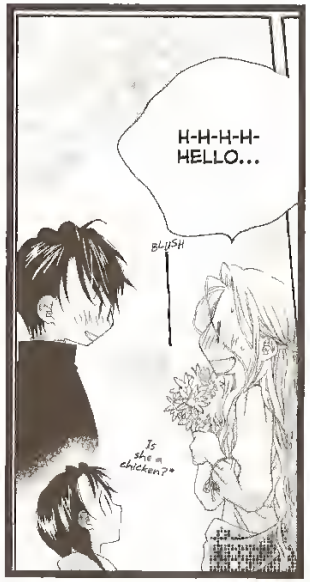
Translator's Notes

Pg. 11 – the ocean and folklore

Because Japan is an island country, the ocean is an integral part of its folklore. Such famous tales include "Urashima Taro" and the Creation Story of Japan, itself. All children grow up learning about the ocean through these stories, so it is very shocking to find someone who doesn't know the basics, like Taki here.

Pg. 122 – stuttering chicken

In Japanese, chickens make a "ko ko ko" sound. This is also the first syllable of the word "hello" (konnichiwa). So when Amaria was stuttering and repeating just the first part of "konnichiwa" she sounded like a chicken.



Oh crap, all the 'Bonus Talk' took up only one page
And I could only think of one four-panel funny I could draw
I could always fill this space with some illustration or something, but since the reader would only glance at it for a second and be done, I've decided to do a Bonus Bonus Talk

Halloween =
The night before
All Saints Day

All Saints Day =
Pretty much like
"Obon" I think

ABOUT THE NAMES

Lazlo's actual nickname is "Lazly" but since it makes her sound weak, she went for "Laz"
Doesn't "Lazly" sound like "Lassie" though?
"Agi" is actually the nickname for "Agnes" But I think "Agi" sounds cuter
As for Taki's last name "Juhas" it reminded me of chocolate wafers Doesn't it sound tastier?
Grey simply came from his eye color which is a blue-grey Though that's not to say I didn't put any love into it eh?
I'm sure people who know will know about Shikimi's deal It's a poison His birthday is March 19th

ABOUT THE DOG

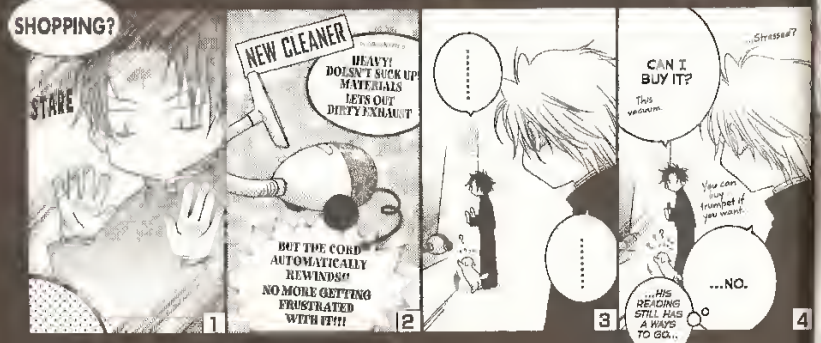
It's scary how quickly she's become brighter
Compared to when she first showed up, it was as though she was a stuffed animal only It's almost tempting to think that something's only **wearing** her as a costume

LIKES AND DISLIKES

This manga has few eating scenes Not to say I've got anything against eating
Since Taki grew up so poor he doesn't categorize foods between likes and dislikes He'd eat even a monster if he could But that also just seems to be his nature I wonder
For some reason I really imagine Shikimi to have such a hatred for carrots that they make him vomit
And Laz probably likes to drink Even though she most likely can't hold her liquor

ABOUT THE COLORS

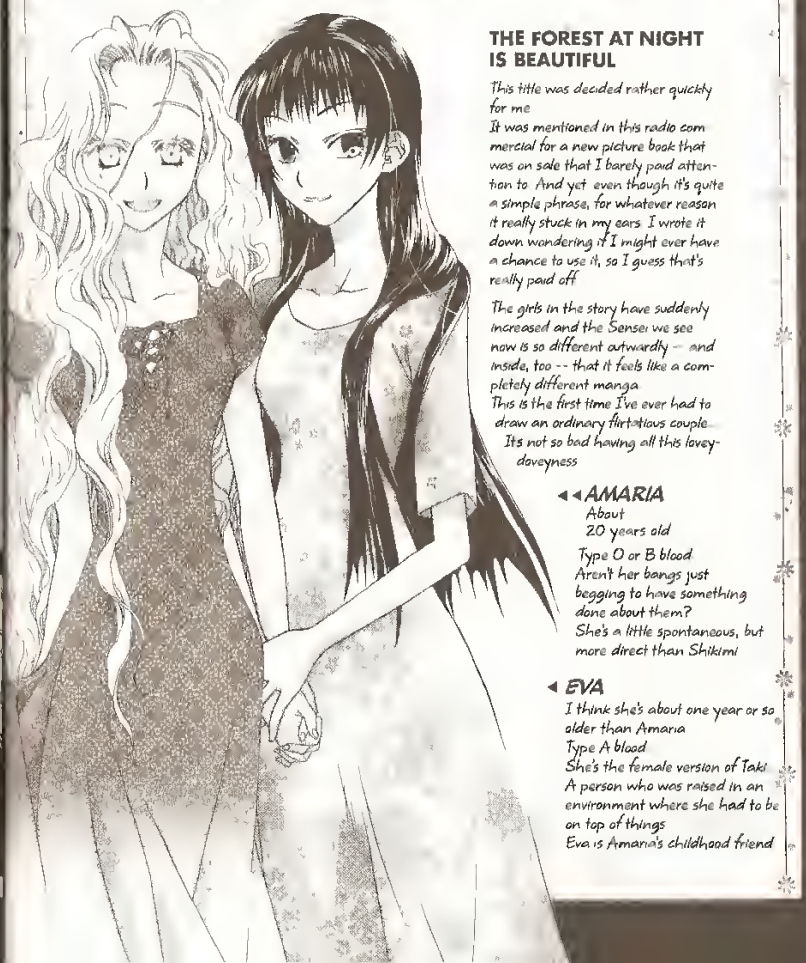
Now for the colors All the characters are supposed to have different shades of skin color but only very subtly
I have a poor sense when it comes to colors but when there are a lot of blacks it has a relatively settled and orderly feel to it, so I love this cast of black-suited characters I also like drawing flowers Even though they're all (?) guys



BONUS TALK

THE COLOR OF WATER, THE BLUE OF THE SEA

It seems Shikimi's fretting and worrying have finally boiled over enough that he's decided to put a stop to it But things don't always change as easily as we think they will Since being impatient won't do anything about it either, it's better to just stay calm
Since I drew the Church to be very deep in the mountains, the ocean's supposed to feel like a really distant illusion
Sometimes the characters' right and left hands suddenly get flip-flopped but let's try not to notice that, shall we ? Please don't even think about it



THE FOREST AT NIGHT IS BEAUTIFUL

This title was decided rather quickly for me
It was mentioned in this radio commercial for a new picture book that was on sale that I barely paid attention to And yet even though it's quite a simple phrase, for whatever reason it really stuck in my ears I wrote it down wondering if I might ever have a chance to use it, so I guess that's really paid off

The girls in the story have suddenly increased and the Sensei we see now is so different outwardly — and inside, too -- that it feels like a completely different manga
This is the first time I've ever had to draw an ordinary flirtatious couple It's not so bad having all this lovey-doveyness

◂◂AMARIA

About
20 years old
Type O or B blood
Aren't her bangs just begging to have something done about them?
She's a little spontaneous, but more direct than Shikimi

◂EVA

I think she's about one year or so older than Amaria
Type A blood
She's the female version of Taki
A person who was raised in an environment where she had to be on top of things
Eva is Amaria's childhood friend

BLACK SUN SILVER MOON

Secrets from the past come to light as Shikomi admits to a high-stakes bet between himself and the mysterious Grey – a wager for his humanity! Taki is more determined than ever to save the half-demon priest, but every piece of new information brings Grey that much closer to winning the bet...

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